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WAR DIARY

German Naval Staff
Operations Division

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
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PART A VOLUME 32

DECLASSIFIED IAW DOD MEMO OF 7 MAY 1972, SUBJ:
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APRIL 1942

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UNCLASSIFIED

WAR DIARY OF THE GERMAN NAVAL STAFF

(Operations Division)

PART A

April 1942

Chief, Naval Staff: Grand Admiral Raeder, Dr. h.c.
Chief of Staff, Naval Staff: Vice Admiral Fricke
Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff: Captain Wagner

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Volume 32

begun: 1 Apr. 1942
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OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

Washington, D. C.

Foreword

1. The Office of Naval Intelligence has undertaken to translate important parts of the War Diary of the German Naval Staff. The present volume, entitled War Diary of the German Naval Staff, Operations Division, Part A, Volume 32, is the second of the series to appear. Other volumes will follow shortly.

2. The War Diaries, Part A, are important because they contain a day by day summary of the information available to the German Naval Staff and the decisions reached on the basis thereof. Together with the Fuehrer Conferences on Matters Dealing with the German Navy, 1939-1945, which have been published by this office, the War Diaries should provide valuable material for the study of naval problems arising from total war. The War Diary, Part A, is also a useful index to the German Naval Archives of World War II; references may be found in the microfilm library of Naval Records and Library.

3. Due to the cost of publication, only a limited number of copies could be made; it is therefore desirable that the copies which have been distributed are made available to other offices which may be interested.

Washington, D. C.
1947

1 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

Discussions regarding Laval's active participation in the government are said to be continuing. The difficulty is to be found in Laval's demand for the leading position in the Cabinet.

Great Britain:

On 29 Mar. according to Swedish reports a mass demonstration of strong communist character took place on Trafalgar Square under the slogan "Victory in 1942". A resolution demanding immediate attacks at any price this year was accepted and met with general approval. The Times, which is completely pro-Russian at present, criticized shortcomings of British propaganda in Russia.

According to reports from reliable authority, a strong group of Conservatives and the City are violently opposed to Churchill. They criticize him among other things for not having made use of Hess's arrival for the purpose of entering into negotiations. Since then the situation is said to have deteriorated generally. It is assumed that Australia and New Zealand can already be written off, while India's destiny is uncertain. Even worse is the infiltration of communism into Britain and the unexpected readiness on the part of the people to accept it. At any rate Cripps will definitely have to be disposed of. In the event that Germany should defeat Russia, Great Britain would have to come to an understanding, regardless of all her ties with the U.S. Should Russia be victorious, however, it would become necessary to use British fighting forces in order to check communism on the Continent. The report states that if Churchill fails to adopt this policy, he will have to be replaced by Beaverbrook. It is believed that the latter, in addition to possessing other qualifications for the task, would be acceptable to Germany for negotiations.

British censorship has been tightened considerably.

> However little we are able to realize the true significance of the actual happenings from here, all these reports from Great Britain are unmistakable symptoms of the very difficult situation.

India:

Negotiations by Cripps are going to be continued because the Congress Party failed to accept the proposals submitted by him, as was to be expected.

Australia:

The Prime Minster reported the following:

1. Closer contact has been established with Allied warfare by joining the Pacific Council of War;

2. The withdrawal of Australian troops from the Orient was carried out without incidents;

3. A closer relationship has been established between Australian and American troops on Australian soil;

4. General MacArthur has taken over supreme command of the entire South Pacific theater. Australian troops are under the command of the Australian, General Blamey. The Government and Parliament are not going to interfere in questions pertaining to warfare.

Italy:

In view of the changed war situation, particularly in the Mediterranean, the morale in northern Italy has improved considerably. The idea that the British Empire is superior and invincible, a belief deeply rooted in the Italian nation for generations, is said to have collapsed. Hope for a favorable outcome of the war has risen again. German military circles report that for the moment no danger exists in regard to the home front.

Afghanistan:

In this country too the British apparently leave all initiative up to the Russians.

Chile:

According to foreign press reports Japan gave official notice in Santiago that she attaches great importance to the maintenance of mutual trade relations and that she is willing to place Chilean merchant ships under Japanese convoy protection between Japan and Valparaiso.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Staff orders examination of the situation resulting from the possible transfer of the Commander, Destroyers to Norway for the purpose of taking over the command of destroyers in that area.

II. Report by the Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff that from 12 Apr. until 18 Apr. the Italian Admiral attached to the Naval Staff will be given opportunity to observe operations of Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines and to acquaint himself with coastal fortifications.

III. Report by Chief, Naval Communications Division, Naval Staff about an agreement between Group North and the 5th Air Force concerning the assignment of naval communication troops to all Air Force operations staffs in Norway in order to improve communication between the 2 branches of the Armed Forces.

IV. A report by the Chief, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division deals with the following:

a. A written reply is to be sent to Minister Speer refuting the claim that the Navy failed to give adequate support to the Todt Organization in connection with the work done at the West Coast. Chief, Naval Staff agrees.

b. NUERNBERG must remain in dry dock until the middle of August, due to the fact that the exhaust steam pipe of 1 turbine was damaged during an air attack on Kiel the night of 12 Mar.

c. Changes in the fuel oil situation. According to information received by the Armed Forces High Command, War Economy and Armaments Division, discussions with Rumania reveal that in April only 8,000 tons of Rumanian fuel oil will be available instead of the promised 46,000 tons. Further negotiations will be undertaken by Ambassador Clodius in order to bring about an increase in future quotas by way of friendly agreement.

> As yet the Naval Staff doubts the effectiveness of this method. The situation is doubly disagreeable because the Italian Navy is also affected by this; apart from operational consequences necessarily resulting from the cancellation of the monthly allotment of 46,000 tons of which Rome had just been informed, the enemy will soon become aware of the disastrous paralyzation of German and Italian naval forces. This will have important bearings on the war situation because it will strengthen the enemy's determination to carry on to the end.
>
> Steps are to be taken to inform the Fuehrer at once.

d. Formation of the naval brigade. 7,000 to 9,000 men may be taken from forces held in readiness for new naval coastal artillery units which are in the progress of being organized in order to carry out the Fuehrer's orders to strengthen the coastal defenses of Norway and Western France. Officers can be obtained only by reducing coast artillery officer personnel to 1 officer per battery. The Chief, Naval Staff recommends that this critical state be explained to the Armed Forces High Command.

V. The report by the Chief, Foreign Affairs Section, Operations Division, Naval Staff deals with the opening of Spanish-German negotiations in Berlin regarding Spanish merchant shipping and the marking of Argentine merchant ships, as well as with the memorandum of the German Armistice Commission, France to the French delegation concerning DUNKERQUE. Details in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

VI. The Naval Attache Section reports that the Italians have asked to be informed of experiences gained in repulsing the British landing at St. Nazaire.

VII. In regard to a letter to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command, drafted by Naval Staff in protest against the St. Nazaire investigation (see War Diary 31 Mar.), the Chief, Naval Staff points out that the manner in which the Armed Forces High Command ordered the investigation demands the sharpest possible protest. The draft submitted by the Naval Staff is too mild.

The telegram sent by the Commander in Chief, Navy to Field Marshal Keitel reads as follows:

"I was greatly shocked by the contents of your telegram to the Commander in Chief, West, Field Marshal von Rundstedt, regarding the St. Nazaire investigation and the formulation of the questions which were transmitted at your special request. I was not taken into consultation in this whole matter although most of the questions concern

me personally, my competence, and my sense of responsibility. You did not even find it necessary to inform me of your instructions. This action is contrary to all military custom. I must therefore insist that you clarify the matter and that I be given the necessary satisfaction."

Copy in reference file.

In connection with his inspection trip to Wilhelmshaven the Chief, Naval Staff brought up the question of attaching Dutch territory to the district of Naval Station, North Sea, or to the Commander, Armed Forces, Netherlands. Any solution subordinating Naval Station, North Sea to another Armed Forces command must be rejected. If necessary, efforts should be made to get the Fuehrer to appoint the Admiral, Naval Station, North Sea, Commander, Armed Forces of an area including the Netherlands at least as far as the Zuyder Sea.

Preparations are to be made to fortify Wangeroog again; coastal batteries with heavy anti-aircraft artillery are to be installed, particularly at Hanstholm.

VIII. The following points were covered in a report by the Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. The combat report of 28 Mar. submitted by the Admiral, Western France; the report of Group West is still outstanding.

b. Reply by the Commanding Admiral, Submarines to a directive stating that submarines should be stationed in the Caribbean Sea at all times. For copy of this directive (1/Skl Iu 671/42 Gkdos. Chefs.) see War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV. The Chief, Naval Staff orders execution of the orders given by him.

c. Orders issued by the Armed Forces High Command to the German General, Rome regarding the future operations of German forces in the Mediterranean. See 1/Skl 7680/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

d. Proposal made by Group North for the use of PT boats against the harbor of Newcastle.

Naval Staff suggests dropping these plans because the chances for success are very small. The Chief, Naval Staff is of the same opinion. Copy of this decision in the War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa (1/Skl I op 683/42 Gkdos. Chefs.).

Special Items:

I. The report by the Naval Staff, Operations Division covering ships sunk in Feb. 1942 by German mines contains the text of the account mentioned in Nov. 1941 concerning the sinking of 12 steamers in the Suez Canal, as well as the information obtained by the Reval Intelligence Office during the interrogation of the Russian Captain Evdekimov regarding the evacuation of Hangoe and the ships lost through mines in the course of this operation.

These very considerable results compare favorably with the good results achieved by the use of mines during the evacuation of Reval.

For copy of above report (1/Skl I E 7051/42 Gkdos.) see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

II. A report on the war economy situation for the month of Feb. 1942 issued by the Armed Forces High Command, War Economy and Armaments Division notes that the entire armament output has suffered a further set-back due to the fact that the mineral oil program and the production of transport facilities for the German railway now rank above all armament production on the preferential priority lists.

The labor supply situation has continued to deteriorate. Due to transportation difficulties work had to be suspended in 134 armament plants at the end of February, while 33 plants were partly shut down. For the same reason rolled and cast iron and steel production has dropped to 1,700,000 tons.

For copy of report (1/Skl 7235/42 Gkdos.) see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XII.

Situation 1 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

The MALAYA and 1 cruiser each of the DIDO and AURORA class left Gibraltar separately in westerly direction. According to agent report, sizable troop shipments left western British ports between 14 and 16 Mar. They numbered 91,000 men in all. It took from 19 Dec. 1941 until the middle of March to embark them. An additional 47,000 men are ready for embarkation in April. The transport convoys are taking the route via Capetown presumably to the Near East and Egypt (replacement of Australian troops and reinforcements).

South Atlantic:

According to agent report 1 troop transport from the U.S. is expected to arrive in Monrovia.

Indian Ocean and Red Sea:

According to a report from Portugal, 1 U.S. cruiser is riding at anchor in Mauritius. The British press claims that the Japanese have already made use of harbors in Madagascar for transports to French Africa and for blockade-runners to Germany. (There may be a purpose behind these reports!) According to an agent report from Ankara an administrative officer of the U.S. Army has arrived in Jerusalem supposedly in order to organize the supply for 8 U.S. divisions in the Near East. It is said that the first of these divisions is already on its way. The report claims that 1,000 U.S. technicians are to be employed in Asmara for the construction of large plane and tank repair shops, and that 1 U.S. base has already been equipped in Assab. 10 bases in all are planned in the British Sudan and in Eritrea. Negotiations are supposed to have started with Ibn Saud regarding the construction of roads and airfields.

These reports must definitely be taken to be correct since the enemy must do everything in his power to overcome his present weakness in the Near East.

2. Own Situation:

The Japanese Navy sent a questionnaire concerning the submarine voyage from Japan to Germany. The questionnaire as well as the Naval Staff reply are filed in the War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV (1/Skl 7368/42 and 7633/42 Gkdos.). The Japanese submarine is expected to set out early in April.

Enemy situation reports in Radiograms 1710, 1911, 1934, and 2021.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio intelligence reports that in the evening of 31 Mar. an unidentified Grimsby vessel was damaged by a mine north-northwest of Cromer and towed away. In the afternoon of 1 Apr. an unidentified ship was sighted on the beach near Wintertown.

Intelligence reports from Spain and Portugal reveal that additional British attacks are planned against Lorient, Bordeaux, the Isle of Noirmontier, and other localities.

The captured British operation order for St. Nazaire reveals that the main objective was the demolition of the lock gates and the technical installations of the large dock; secondary objectives were demolition of the small lock gates, the pump installations of the wet docks, and all submarines and other vessels within reach. The following forces took part in the action: The destroyer CAMPBELTOWN with special explosive charges, the 2 fast escort ships ATHERSTONE and TYNEDALE, 2 motor gun boats with special explosive charges, and 16 motor launches. Aboard the ships were 16 army officers and 68 men, as well as special demolition parties consisting of 25 officers and 136 men.

The operation order shows that the strength of our own forces was well known to the enemy. The order contains no information regarding the operation of the rendezvous forces. Otherwise it is surprisingly clear and complete, without going into unnecessary detail.

Copy under 1/Skl 7743 1942 Gkdos. in reference file.

2. Own Situation:

Group West transmits text of telegram sent by the Commanding General, West to the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces High Command upon his return from St. Nazaire. It reads as follows: "I am glad to report that my first impression communicated to you earlier was fully confirmed: No superior officer can be charged with negligence. Under existing conditions and with the means available, all officers and men did their best to fight off the British attack. Therefore I felt justified to express my appreciation to all units of the Armed Forces which took part in the defense, as well as to the auxiliary forces and organizations involved. A detailed reply to your various questions

will follow." See 1/Skl 12517 geh. in reference file.

Chief, Naval Staff and the Naval Staff were pleased to learn of this statement by the Commanding General, West.

At the request of Group West, the Naval Staff informed Torpedo Inspection that the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla is to be recalled from the West Area only when ice conditions will permit the actual start of firing practice (see Telegram 1819). Copies sent to Group West, Group North, the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla, and the Commander, Torpedo Boats.

The Armed Forces High Command directive of 31 Mar. regarding the organization and the commitment of the Naval Fortress Brigade (see War Diary 31 Mar.) is replaced by new orders according to which the units of the brigade are to be used as soon as they are formed rather than wait until all are complete. The order also indicates that instructions for the organization of additional naval fortress brigades will be forthcoming. The Commander in Chief, Air is to provide for anti-aircraft protection of the islands. Copy under 1/Skl 12630/42 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

The order issued by the Commanding General, West subsequent to the Armed Forces directive (see War Diary 31 Mar.) must be altered accordingly.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

The 6th troop transport group (5 ships with 3,858 men) has left the Elbe en route to Oslo. 5 ships of the 12th Subchaser Flotilla are on the way from Wesermuende to Antwerp. North of Wangeroog U "1203" hit a mine and sank.* None of the crew members were lost. The flotilla returned to Wesermuende. Off Hook of Holland, Battery Veneta fired 16 salvos at targets located at sea. The ships turned north at high speed. South of Kristiansand South 4 enemy torpedo planes attacked a northbound convoy; however they failed to do any damage. A patrol vessel shot down 2 of the attacking planes. 2 prisoners were taken.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

According to statements made by prisoners, PQ 13 consisting of 16 ships left Loch Ewe on 13 Mar. for Reykjavik. It left there on 17 and 18 Mar. with 18 ships, proceeding through the Denmark Strait, 18 miles south of Bear Island, and approximately 90 miles north of the entrance into Kola Bay. At first escort consisted of only 2 vessels. Later 1 cruiser of the city class (possibly FIJI class) and 2 destroyers joined the convoy. Together with these escort ships, a nineteenth steamer joined the convoy. Owing to weather conditions the average day's run was 160 miles only. Bad weather forced the convoy to split up in the central part of the northern North Sea. No ice was sighted throughout the voyage. On 24 Mar. 1 additional destroyer, 2 patrol boats, and 2 corvettes joined the escort force. For more details see copy of report by Admiral, Arctic Ocean under 1/Skl 7669/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

* This undoubtedly should read subchaser "1203".

Own Situation:

At noon enemy planes were observed in the Trondheim area. Group North expects more air attacks in this area and urgently requests that if at all possible, the Commanding Admiral, Norway and the 5th Air Force at least temporarily reinforce anti-aircraft defenses as well as smoke-cover installations (see Telegram 1235).

Group North asks for a definite decision on the requested transfer of at least 12 tugs from the West Area to Trondheim. This request was made on the basis of the report by the Commanding Admiral, Battleships stating that the number of tugs available is inadequate to assist vessels of the fleet stationed at Trondheim to put out to sea. The Commanding Admiral, Battleships estimates that with the number of tugs at present available and under unfavorable weather conditions it would take 5 to 6 hours to accomplish this maneuver. (See Telegram 1948.) Action to be taken by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

Commanding Admiral, Norway had requested 3 patrol boats and offered to replace them with 3 whalers. However Group North was unable to comply with his request and the project was dropped. (See Telegram 1940.)

Investigation at the location where mine sweeper "5608" sank near Petsamo revealed an enemy mine field 17° true bearing from Krikun. In Karen Sound another mine field was eliminated by mine-detonating vessel "138".

The 5th Air Force and Group North agreed to an exchange of liaison officers between the Admiral, Arctic Ocean and the Air Commander, North-East.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

During the early morning reports were received revealing that the Norwegian ships had left Goeteborg during the night of 31 Mar. in order to attempt a break-through via the Kattegat and Skagerrak. Our patrol lines were manned according to plan. Owing to bad weather the morning air patrol off the western exit of the Skagerrak was cancelled. At 1256 one plane took off from Westerland to make a reconnaissance flight. Visibility was limited.

At 1100 the Naval Attache in Stockholm still did not know of the changed situation in Goeteborg. This shows how prompt communication was hampered by Sweden. Not before 1930 was Stockholm able to report that the Norwegian ships had begun to move at 0015 and that 2 Swedish destroyers had also left their berths. It is apparent that these provided the promised escort inside territorial waters. Continuous reports from Group North revealed that the first contact between the ships which were trying to break through and our own patrol vessels occurred south of Halloe at 0321, when patrol boat "1613" fired on a ship proceeding without lights, with the result that it turned back behind the islands. At 0800 the whale-processing ship SKYTHEREN (12,358 GRT) and the tanker BUCCANEER (6,222 GRT) were stopped by patrol boats and scuttled by their crews; the men were picked up. At 1240 steamer CHARENTE (1,200 GRT) was scuttled by her crew.

At 1309 the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla and the 6th PT Boat Flotilla were ordered into action; 3 German submarines were ordered to take

up waiting positions in AN 3410, 3170, and 3140 (see Telegram 1309.) At 1415 two additional tankers, the NEWTON and the STORSTEN were sighted. An unsuccessful attempt was made to stop them with gunfire. The STORSTEN returned the fire and went out of sight. At 1545 the NEWTON was located and attacked by a plane of the Commander, Naval Air. At 1840 and 1944 Radio Goeteborg repeated two SOS calls of the tanker NEWTON, reporting that she was being bombed and that she had lost her maneuverability. In the meanwhile 5 additional German planes were ordered into action (see Telegram 1758). For detailed report by the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea, see Telegram 2221. Since all available forces under the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea, i.e., 16 patrol boats, patrol vessels "7" and "47", and 1 mine sweeper, are committed to prevent blockade-running, no replacements are available.

So far no information has been received about the other planes. By evening the reports by the Naval Attache, Stockholm and Group North present the following picture: The DICTO and the LIONEL returned to Goeteborg; the SKYTHEREN, BUCCANEER, and CHARENTE were scuttled by their crews; the STORSTEN was damaged by gunfire, and 1 tanker, apparently the NEWTON, was allegedly sunk by a plane. The fate of the 3 remaining ships is not known yet. Group North also reported that 1 vessel had hit a mine and had been sighted in a sinking condition. This report is still unconfirmed.

It may be assumed that the British Navy had arranged to meet the ships in the northern part of the North Sea. At 1800 Group North was therefore informed that the troop transport which had put to sea on 31 Mar. and which is northbound from the Elbe may be in danger, and the necessity for air reconnaissance was pointed out. (See Message 1500.)

Although the preliminary reports received do not permit a conclusive statement regarding the situation, the Naval Staff believes it certain that the enemy's attempt to run the blockade was for the most part unsuccessful. 4 of the 10 blockade-runners at best can have reached the open sea; in all probability the figure is even smaller.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence the British steamer LOCH DON (5,249 GRT) was torpedoed about 300 miles north of Bermuda. U.S. ships were warned to watch out for obstructions in the approaches to St. Thomas.

2. Own Situation:

For report see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

No special reports were received.

During the night of 1 Apr. 160 to 170 enemy planes attacked the continent; 40 of these penetrated into Reich territory (northern coastal area and the area Geldern-Bad Salzungen, Ansbach-Karlsruhe).

2. Mediterranean Theater:

During attacks on Valletta 1 destroyer was hit by a bomb at 1425, and 1 submarine by 2 bombs at 1800.

The Commander in Chief, Air ordered the Commanding General, South to investigate the chances for attacking the VALIANT which is lying in Alexandria.

3. Eastern Front:

All along the Army front heavy fighting is in progress, especially in the center and the north. Operations against railroads achieved good results. See daily situation.

For a report on the operations carried out in cooperation with the Navy against Norwegian ships trying to break out of Goeteborg see Situation Baltic Sea.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

The AURORA-class cruiser leaving Gibraltar in westerly direction is the ship coming from Malta which was sighted north of Algiers on 31 Mar.

Photographic reconnaissance of Valletta at 1108 showed 1 small cruiser (in dock), 3 destroyers, 4 submarines, and 4 harbor patrol vessels partly destroyed by fire. In Marsa Scirocco 1 steamer was noticed lying bottom up.

In the afternoon air reconnaissance discovered a convoy evidently consisting of 4 steamers, 2 cruisers, and 4 destroyers in the area north of Sidi Barrani.

According to an intelligence report of 27 Mar. concerning reinforcements for North Africa and Malta, 35,000 to 40,000 men are expected to arrive in Cairo early in April. In addition, troop shipments from Great Britain by air continue. The planes used for this purpose are Wellingtons and Blenheims, as well as 7 American transport planes. 4 Sunderlands arrived from Singapore; additional Catalinas and Sunderlands are expected, some of them from Great Britain. In the future only seaplanes will be used to send supplies to Malta. Depending on flight conditions they will land in the various creeks of Valletta harbor and unload there. 2 British battalions will be transferred in groups by air from Sollum and Bardia to Malta. Steps have been taken to supply the area west of Marsa Matruh with arms and ammunition. (See Telegram 1513.)

> This report is new evidence that the enemy's position is extremely weak in the Egypt-Suez area. It is very regrettable that it was impossible to take advantage of this weakness.

An energetic attack launched from the Libyan area could have brought decisive results.

2. Situation Italy:

On 23 Mar., according to a German report, the Italian submarine ONISE torpedoed a cruiser in the Eastern Mediterranean. The cruiser was escorting a convoy returning from Malta. In the morning of 1 Apr. the cruiser GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE which was under orders to transfer to Naples and which was escorted by 2 destroyers and 1 torpedo boat (equipped with German search gear) was sunk by an enemy submarine north of the Strait of Messina.

On 31 Mar. 10 Italian submarines were at sea in the Mediterranean.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Departure of the 6th Transport Squadron has been postponed until 2 April. Otherwise nothing to report.

4. Area Naval Group South:

See War Diary 16 Feb. for stand taken by the Army General Staff with regard to the report submitted by Group South on naval tasks in the Black Sea. Copy under 1/Skl 653/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIVa.

Copy of opinion of the Commander in Chief, Air on above-mentioned memorandum under 1/Skl 6954/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIVa.

Otherwise nothing to report.

5. Situation France:

For organization of French naval forces as of 1 Apr. 1942 see report by Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff under 1/Skl 12751 geh. in War Diary, Part D, French Navy.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

Nothing to report.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

In the Donets sector enemy attacks continued against the southern front of the 6th Army, on the whole unsuccessfully. East of Kharkov heavy fighting is in progress.

Central Army Group:

Our positions east of Volkhov are under strong enemy pres-

sure. After repeated attacks with forces of superior strength the enemy succeeded in penetrating our positions northwest of Yukhnov. Near Rzhev the attacks have lessened in strength. The road block southwest of Byeloy is the center of heavy fighting. Between Velikie Luki and Nevel a German armored car was derailed by a noncontact explosive charge.

Northern Army Group:

East of Chernychedo the group under Von Seydlitz broke through forest positions and made contact with the enemy who was prepared for the attack. The road leading from Staraya Russa to Zaytsevo was reached. Further enemy attacks against other critical points of this Army Group were repulsed.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Situation unchanged.

3. North Africa:

Report has not yet been received.

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2 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

The Daily Herald, mouthpiece of the Labor Party, violently attacks Churchill as representative of the decadent British social system. According to this article the necessary prerequisite for victory is the establishment of a new social order in Great Britain.

Mexico:

Foreign Minister Padilla declared he had assured Roosevelt that in this war Mexico would do everything in her power to further the cause of the democracies.

Turkey:

The trial of Papen's would-be assassin revealed that it was a Russian attempt to eliminate the German Ambassador.

Near East:

According to a German News Agency (DNB) report from Adana, the Russians, after annexing Iranian-Azerbaijan, are about to found a Kurd Soviet Republic.

India:

According to press reports, the steering committee of the Congress Party passed a resolution demanding that Cripps write a memorandum explaining certain points in the proposal submitted by him.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff reports on the coastal listening apparatus installed at Trondheim, at a depth of 350 meters, and on the radar sets installed along the Channel and the Atlantic Coast. Since only 2 radar sets are produced each month, Group West is investigating the advisability of increasing the number of sets along the Atlantic Coast at the expense of the Channel Coast.

British planes dropped radio-beacon buoys in the North Sea. These are to be demolished or removed.

II. The Chief, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division suggests that no bow spar be installed when the forward part of the GNEISENAU is rebuilt. The 24 tons in weight thus gained would make it possible to increase the rounds of ammunition of the heavy artillery from 95 to 105 pieces.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees, adding that as a result of the alterations the GNEISENAU may at last get a dry bridge. He likewise approves the proposal made by the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval

Staff to arm Wangeroog with four 15 cm. guns of the GNEISENAU. In order to reinforce the anti-aircraft defenses at Hanstholm, 7.5 cm. shore batteries will be installed.

III. The Chief, Naval Construction Division reports on questions relating to shipyards and the substitution of steel propellers for brass propellers.

IV. The Chief, Naval Ordnance Division reports on the planned standardization of small arms of all branches of the Armed Forces and on other pertinent questions.

V. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the following matters:

a. The necessity for eliminating the Russian Black Sea fleet is being pointed out to the Armed Forces High Command and the Commander in Chief, Air.

The Navy considers its main task the transport and protection of supplies by sea in support of Army movements in southern Russia. Preliminary discussions of this matter with the Army General Staff have confirmed the opinion that the Russian threat to our sea supply lines cannot be eliminated by the Navy alone in view of the few and inadequate forces available. To be sure, the intended use of German PT boats and later on of submarines in the Black Sea gives a certain assurance of success against the Russian fleet. Nevertheless the Russians will continue to keep the upper hand, and as long as they are able to maintain their strength they will represent a constant threat to our sea lanes. According to the Naval Staff, this threat can be removed only by occupying the last remaining Russian naval bases and thus making it impossible for the Russian fleet to operate in the Black Sea. As long as this is not an accomplished fact, we must try to eliminate the Russian fleet if necessary by destroying the ships in their bases; only when the enemy fleet has been destroyed will we be able to give our supply shipments in the Black Sea adequate protection. This is the task of the Air Force as well as of the Navy. The sooner the Air Force takes part in these operations and the more success it achieves, the better the prospects for our supply shipments by sea and from the Caucasus to Rumania.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees with the above presentation of the problem, which is to be submitted to the Armed Forces High Command and the Commander in Chief, Air. Copy under 1/Skl Ia 692/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIVa.

b. The Naval Staff has suggested attaching a naval liaison officer to the staff of General Rommel (see 1/Skl Ib (Plan) in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV). The Chief, Naval Staff agrees and requests that suitable officers be appointed in conjunction with the Officer Personnel Division, Naval Staff. The Naval Staff will likewise request that a liaison officer be attached to the operational command of the Japanese Navy at Singapore. Captain Vermehren has been ordered to Japan to deal with economic problems and matters pertaining to transportation. (Note added: Expansion of secret German naval organization in Japan.)

c. Sailing orders for ship "23" (see 1/Skl I k 686/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I).

The Chief, Naval Staff gives his consent.

VI. In view of the changed fuel oil situation, new orders and instructions are submitted for approval. They will be sent to all German authorities concerned as well as to the Italian Navy. A corresponding report by the Commander in Chief, Navy will be presented to the Fuehrer by the Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff. Copy under 1/Skl I g 700/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IX.

The Chief, Naval Staff approves the proposed texts.

VII. Report of Captain Schubert (Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Plans and Schedules Branch) on the results of his investigation with regard to the defense measures taken against the British landing operation at St. Nazaire on 28 Mar. This report confirms the impression held up to now that in general all defense measures which could be taken with the personnel and materiel available were taken and were properly utilized. It was somewhat of a drawback that the naval officer in command of the post was on leave at the time of the attack. His deputy, a lieutenant (j.g.) of the naval artillery reserve, was not emphatic enough in his orders to the superintendent of the shipyard to tow off the CAMPBELTOWN as fast as possible. The report mentions also that the investigation conducted by the Commanding General, West in accordance with orders received reached definite conclusions which have already been transmitted by telegram.

The Chief, Naval Staff orders that regardless of the findings of the Commanding General, West the Navy must conduct a careful investigation and examine all particulars and details involved, so that the information gained from this experience can be put to proper use in the future.

Special Items:

The Naval Staff is requesting more mine-sweeping Ju 52 from the Commander in Chief, Air. Copy under 1/Skl I E 6003/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

Situation 2 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio intelligence report Nr. 13/42 of the Chief, Communications Division (Radio Intelligence), Naval Staff contains a compilation of all decoded enemy reports picked up by radio intelligence up until 29 Mar.

North Atlantic:

According to press reports the Army and the Navy of the United States are again considering dirigibles for use as airplane carriers and for long-range reconnaissance. In order to safeguard the particularly vital Near East traffic which handles supplies going

to Russia, the African front, and the Far East, and to shorten the route, Admiral Pratt recommends that supplies be shipped by sea from the United States to Trinidad, Duala, Lagos, and from there by land route south of Lake Chad to Khartoum, following the new clipper route. It is said that the Lagos route can be taken only when the weather is favorable. The Duala route has recently been completed.

Admiral Pratt emphasizes the importance of Fernando Po.

South Atlantic:

According to press reports all Brazilian merchant ships are being armed at present.

Indian Ocean:

According to an Italian army report, source unknown, the Port of Durban is closed to commercial shipping. According to press reports the Portuguese Government is intending to strengthen the defense of Mozambique with 12 coastal batteries.

On 2 Apr. one British steamer was torpedoed 300 miles southwest of Bombay, another one 480 miles south-southwest of Colombo; a third steamer was attacked by planes and bombed 300 miles south-southwest of Calcutta.

Pacific Ocean:

On 29 Mar. radio intelligence picked up the report of an Australian naval radio station concerning the presence of a Japanese naval force consisting of 1 aircraft carrier, 1 airplane tender (Class KAMOI) and 13 destroyers presumably near Bee Hive Rock at the eastern tip of New Guinea at the entrance to the China Strait.

A coastal strip off Guayaquil (Peru) was declared a controlled sea area.

2. Own Situation:

During the night of 1 Apr. ship "10" reported that she succeeded in sinking the British steamer WELLPARK on 31 Mar. and the British steamer WILLESDEN on 1 Apr. in large square FT before they were able to send out messages; she is changing her zone of operations to the West Indian Ocean. The word "no" attached to the report means that ship "10" did not demolish the whaler station on Deception Island as the Naval Staff had assumed (see War Diary 27 Mar.). When Naval Staff first confirmed the short signals of ship "10" the word "no" was erroneously assumed to mean that the prisoners from the PAGASITIKOS are aboard the REGENSBURG. (See Radiogram 0618.)

Radiogram 1338 straightens out the misunderstanding concerning the "no" and gives instructions to ship "10" to attack in the future in the Atlantic only when it is certain that the enemy can be prevented from sending out messages. Otherwise operations of ship "28" might be jeopardized. The message ends with the Naval Staff's congratulation on the latest successes.

Radiogram 1602 conveys the felicitations of the Commander in Chief, Navy and awards decorations to the commanding officer and 40 men of

ship "10". Radiograms 1129 and 1410 order ship "28" and the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN to meet after 10 Apr. at reference point Ernst.

Supplementary answers to Japanese questionnaire (see War Diary 1 Apr.) through 1/Skl I op 7820/42 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Information on Turkey's political attitude to all ships abroad by Radiogram 0600.

Information on enemy situation sent out by Radiogram 2001.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Information was received from a German submarine that it sighted 2 destroyers about 60 miles north of La Coruna proceeding at full speed in northeasterly direction.

2. Own Situation:

The roadsteads at La Pallice were closed temporarily because of the suspected presence of aerial mines.

Channel Coast:

During the night of 1 Apr. the harbor and city of Le Havre were attacked by enemy planes. Patrol vessel "1517" was hit by a bomb and sank. On 1 Apr. between 1410 and 1420 enemy bombers with fighter protection attacked Boulogne. Houses were damaged and casualties suffered by the Armed Forces as well as the civilian population. The harbor of Le Havre was closed temporarily because of danger from aerial mines.

Special Items:

During Mar. 1942 ship movements in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West comprised 350 vessels totalling 358,000 GRT; some of these travelled in convoys for periods of several days.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance carried out by the 5th Air Force, 3 big warships (battleships or cruisers) and 4 destroyers were sighted in quadrant AN 4698 at 1640. The presence of another eastbound destroyer force in quadrant AN 4539 was reported at 1545. These ships were apparently en route to a rendezvous with the Norwegian steamers which left Goeteborg on 1 Apr. 1 of these steamers was seriously damaged by aerial attack in quadrant AN 4630.

Own Situation:

During the night of 1 Apr. several enemy planes penetrated into the German Bight.

According to information from Group North, at first Dutch gunboats (see War Diary 30 Mar.) will be used as fast escort vessels for the GNEISENAU and POTSDAM. It is planned to transfer the ships to the Norwegian area as soon as they can be operated safely (see Telegram 1142).

During Mar. 1942, 256 vessels totalling 765,470 GRT were convoyed in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North. The total number of merchant shipping included 519 ships with 1,145,351 GRT. 17 ground mines were eliminated. As a result of 10 enemy air attacks 1 mine sweeper was seriously damaged. 1 mine-detonating vessel, 2 steamers, and 1 trawler hit mines and sank. Enemy PT boats sank 1 Dutch steam trawler. 1 patrol boat and 1 mine sweeper ran aground and were lost.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Convoy PQ 14 is presumably going to leave Reykjavik on 3 Apr. According to air reconnaissance 32 medium and large steamers were sighted in Murmansk at 1700; 6 miles east of the Rybachi Peninsula 4 steamers were spotted proceeding in southerly direction; 2 steamers were sighted at the entrance to the Gulf of Motovski.

Own Situation:

The steamer belonging to the convoy escorted by patrol vessel "6112" and sunk by an enemy submarine on 1 Apr. was the steamer MICHAEL. The sinking occurred in quadrant AC 8421.

In connection with the attempted break-through of Norwegian steamers from Goeteborg, the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla and the 6th PT Boat Flotilla left Stavanger at 1620 on 1 Apr. The 6th PT Boat Flotilla had to turn back because of weather conditions. On 2 Apr. besides the 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla, the 5 boats of the 11th Mine Sweeper Flotilla, 2 boats of the 17th Subchaser Flotilla, and 1 patrol boat left Stavanger to take up stations along the patrol line.

Group North reports that the 5th Air Force finds it impossible to strengthen the anti-aircraft defenses of Trondheim as requested even on a temporary basis.

In connection with Naval Staff orders that the Trondheim Fjord be sealed off hermetically (see War Diary 31 Mar.), the Commanding Admiral, Norway requests additional allocation of the following: Anti-aircraft batteries with crews, depth-charge throwers, floating net barrages, and 1 anti-submarine flotilla consisting of 12 boats needed to guarantee the effectiveness of the floating net barrages by guarding these and the gap in the mine field, etc. See Telegram 1/Skl 7845/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

It is felt that an indicator net off Narvik would be unsatisfactory. The Admiral, Arctic Coast suggests instead that an anti-submarine barrage be installed between Baroe and Rotvaer with UMB mines and hydrostatic self-destruction mechanism at a depth of 17 m. However this

barrage requires the constant use of subchasers to make certain that its effect will outweigh the disadvantages it offers to our own heavy naval forces, a risk of which the fleet is quite aware. The Commanding Admiral, Norway submits this proposal to Group North for decision. For copy see Telegram 1000. Reply is made to the inquiry by the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy concerning the planned allocation of landing craft becoming available by July. An inquiry is sent to the Commanding Admiral, Norway (copy to Group North) asking whether the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway was informed about this allocation of 65 landing craft which the Naval High Command had planned for the Norway area. A request for landing craft by the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway has created the impression in the Armed Forces High Command that the Navy has failed to make all necessary preparations (see Telegram 1406).

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Attempted Break-Through of Norwegian Ships: According to the report by the Commander, Naval Air, forces of Coastal Air Squadron 506 repeatedly attacked and severely damaged the tanker NEWTON on 1 Apr. At 1830 a plane sighted the sinking tanker STORSTEN inside the mined area of quadrant AN 3671. Both tankers were equipped with machine guns; the tanker NEWTON carried in addition 2 cm. anti-aircraft guns. Both ships made use of these weapons for their defense. 1 plane is overdue.

According to information from Group North patrol vessel "908" reported that it sank the steamer GUDVANG (1,469 GRT) in quadrant AN 3656 at 2240 on 1 Apr. The tanker RIGMOR was sunk by the 5th Air Force as a result of repeated bomb and air-torpedo attacks. The 5th Air Force assumes that the tanker NEWTON was also sunk.

The Naval Attache in Stockholm confirms once more that according to information received from the Swedish Foreign Office 10 steamers originally left Goeteborg; 2 of them, the DICTO and the LIONEL, returned later. Therefore in the evening of 2 Apr. the situation appears as follows:

Scuttled by their crews:	SKYTHEREN, BUCCANEER, CHARENTE
Sunk by patrol vessels:	GUDVANG
Sunk by mines:	STORSTEN
Sunk by planes:	RIGMOR
Bombed by planes and allegedly sunk:	NEWTON
Caused to turn back by patrol vessels:	DICTO and LIONEL.

No reports were received as to the fate of 1 steamer. Taking this into consideration as well as the unconfirmed report on the NEWTON, the fate of only 8 blockade-runners is actually known; it is uncertain what happened to the other 2 ships.

At noon, acting on the Fuehrer's orders, the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces High Command requested a preliminary action report on the break-through attempt. For copy of this report see 1/Skl I a 7840/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The Naval Staff agrees with the high praise expressed by the Commanding Admiral, Group North to all participating forces in Telegram 1321.

On 1 Apr. Finnish forces occupied Tytersaari in the Gulf of Finland. According to statements made by prisoners of war, there are 850 Russians on Lavansaari, and 140 Russians with 8 tanks on Seiskari.

V. Merchant Shipping:

In 1941 the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch gathered intelligence on approximately 3,000 British merchant ships totalling 13,500,000 GRT. That is 87.5% of the British merchant fleet. (Total tonnage 15,500,000 GRT.) This figure includes 2,200,000 GRT in tankers.

This tonnage was distributed as follows:

In British coastal traffic approximately 800,000 GRT freighter tonnage, representing 7% of British merchant shipping.

Homeward-bound at least 6,500,000 GRT freighter tonnage, representing 57.5% of British merchant shipping.

Homeward-bound at least 1,500,000 GRT tanker tonnage, representing 73.5% of total British tanker space.

About 80% of the tankers are now concentrated in the Atlantic area, while the heaviest concentrations of freighters are in 2 areas, namely the Atlantic and the Near and Far East.

During the past year and a half the bulk of the tanker traffic carrying supplies to the mother country was concentrated in the Atlantic, while at the same time more than half of the freighters carrying supplies to the British Isles and operating in the Atlantic area were withdrawn from the Near and Far East area and 1/4 from home waters.

Detailed information in report Nr. 8/42 "Foreign Merchant Shipping" issued by the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio intelligence intercepted a plane message of a depth-charge attack made on a submarine; no position was given. According to Italian report the destroyer ANTILOPE coming from Gibraltar entered Ponta Delgada on 30 Mar., and the destroyer BOADICEA on 31 Mar.; they departed after replenishing their supplies. On 31 Mar. the hospital ship VASNA also entered Ponta Delgada.

Extensive radio traffic from the American coast was intercepted. It mentioned the Canadian steamer FOUNDATION ARANMORE, the British steamer GARTBRATTAN (1,800 GRT), several tugs, and the damaged steamer OZARDA in the area south of Cape Sable. Presumably the message pertained to rescue activity in connection with the Canadian steamer as

well as with the OZARDA. Furthermore distress signals sent by the American steamer DAVID H. ATWATER (2,438 GRT) and the NEVADA from the Cape Charles area were intercepted. Near Cape Hatteras the U.S. tanker ESSO AUGUSTA (11,650 GRT) was being pursued at a speed of 15 knots. The tanker BRILLIANT (9,132 GRT) reported the presence of a submarine in the same waters. Off Cape Lookout the tanker LIEBRE (7,057 GRT) was fired on by a submarine.

2. Own Situation:

Situation report in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

In accordance with instructions issued by the Chief, Naval Staff the Commanding Admiral, Submarines is informed of an order given by the Commander in Chief, Navy. It reads that all measures must be taken which are necessary in order to keep the Caribbean Sea operational area under constant submarine patrol. Copy of telegram under 1/Skl I u 671/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

In view of the successful attacks on convoys during the month of February, the Commanding Admiral, Submarines in his War Diary of 16 to 28 Feb. points out the connection between the sinking of enemy shipping, regardless where, and the shortage of shipping space for landing operations in Norway and elsewhere.

Communications and Intelligence Division, Naval Staff has been requested to investigate this question on the basis of figures available.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

While helping to check the break-through attempt of the Norwegian ships in the Skagerrak, the 5th Air Force sank the Norwegian tanker RIGMOR with aerial torpedoes 60 miles southwest of Egersund. 5 British destroyers were in the vicinity of the tanker.

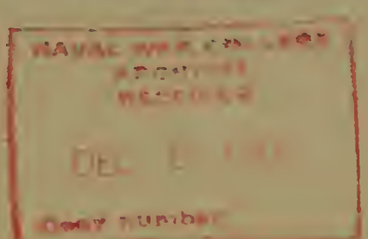
During the night sizable fighting forces of the 3rd Air Force attacked the harbors of Portland, Weymouth, and Dover with apparent success. Numerous enemy planes penetrated into the French, Belgian, and Dutch area; 3 enemy planes were reported shot down.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The attacks against Valletta and the Halfar airfield were continued with noticeable success. In the harbor of Tobruk a steamer of 6,000 GRT was seriously damaged by 2 direct hits.

The Italian Air Force reports that on 31 Mar. north of Ras El Kena a steamer of 6,000 GRT belonging to an enemy convoy was hit by 2 aerial torpedoes and is believed to have sunk.

During the night of 31 Mar., after a considerable interval, 3 Italian bombers attacked Gibraltar, causing a large fire in the harbor.



3. Eastern Front:

Nothing to report.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

In Gibraltar, Valletta, and Tobruk only minor changes were observed with regard to the ships lying in these harbors.

A westbound convoy consisting of 3 merchant ships, 2 cruisers, and 4 patrol vessels was located repeatedly in the Eastern Mediterranean in the area north of Tobruk. According to radio intelligence, planes attacked this convoy 4 times between 1425 and 1810.

2. Situation Italy:

Air attacks on Benghazi took place during the nights of 1 and 2 Apr. In the course of the first night the ferry boat PFALZ was put out of commission.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The departure of the 6th Transport Squadron was postponed 24 hours. Nothing of importance occurred in connection with shipping activities along the African coast.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Nothing to report.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Radio intelligence reported the presence of the following vessels: In the Sevastopol area several light naval units, among them 2 submarines; in the area of the northern Black Sea the cruiser D., in the central part of the Black Sea an unidentified cruiser, and in the southeastern part of the Black Sea 3 destroyers.

On 28 Mar. the 4th Air Force estimated that Russian shipping in the Black Sea amounts to a total of 1,400,000 GRT freighter tonnage and 30,000 GRT tanker tonnage. As was to be expected, Naval Staff, Communications and Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch considers this estimate incorrect. Russian merchant ships at present in the Black Sea probably amount to about 250,000 GRT. The Air Force Operations Staff likewise estimates on the basis of the pictures taken by aerial reconnaissance on 28 Mar. that the number of Russian vessels in the Black Sea is about 200, totalling approximately 200,000 GRT.

Own Situation:

3 enemy planes attacked and bombed Rumanian naval forces

while they were engaged in laying a mine field off Constanta. The bow of mine layer DAZIA was damaged. Rumanian fighter planes have taken off. No further reports were received. The naval force has returned to Constanta. Further enemy air attacks occurred at the mouth of the Kiliya at noon and at the mouth of the Sulina in the afternoon.

A belated report was received that enemy planes attacked Feodosiya on 1 Apr. In the port of Feodosiya an iron motor boat 19 meters long was raised from a depth of 7 meters. During the night of 1 Apr. 2 enemy warships opened fire on Vladislavovka (north of Feodosiya).

IX. Situation East Asia

1. Enemy Situation:

Reports were received from Kabul that the troops fighting in the Sittang area are exclusively Chinese, while the forces fighting in the Irrawaddy valley are composed of British and Indian troops. It is said that civilian authorities were removed from Colombo. According to Reuter the Japanese have complete air supremacy over Burma.

2. Situation Japan:

According to a report from the Military Attache in Bangkok of 31 Mar. the Japanese advanced north of Toungoo. The central column has reached a point 40 kilometers south of Prome. Flanking columns are advancing toward the oil fields. The Japanese occupied the islands Steward and Havelock in the Andamans. Mopping-up operations have been concluded on Sumatra and Celebes. Uninterrupted tropical rains temporarily stopped the Japanese attacks against Port Moresby. According to information received from the Vichy Telegraphic Service they have already been resumed. The Japanese are said to be within 50 kilometers of the city.

Japanese Headquarters reports that enemy planes attacked a Japanese hospital ship in Koepang Bay off Timor.

According to a radio report from the U.S., Japan supposedly claims that her army consists of 76 divisions, of which 14 are stationed in Manchukuo, 13 in China, 3 in Burma, 6 on Java, 3 on New Guinea, 6 in the remaining Netherland Indies, 5 in the Philippines, 3 in Japan, and 18 are held in reserve. The location of 5 divisions is not given.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Only local fighting of little importance took place in this area. South and west of Volchansk 2 localities were captured by the enemy after bitter fighting. Counterattacks are in progress.

Central Army Group:

North of Lyudinovo our own attack made good progress. Our positions along the railroad Vyazma-Kaluga were attacked by 2 enemy regiments which were repulsed suffering heavy losses. West and north of Vyazma German forces advanced further toward Bogoroditsk. An enemy attack launched along a broad front east of Rzhev and south of the Volga collapsed under concentrated German artillery fire. Northwest of Rzhev enemy attacks were also repulsed by our artillery. The west flank of the northern front of this Army Group was the scene of several concentrated German attacks, in the course of which several localities were captured.

Northern Army Group:

The enemy succeeded in penetrating into the northern part of Kholm. The penetration was contained. The attack planned at the northern flank of the Seydlitz group had to be postponed because weather conditions did not permit air support. Enemy tank attacks were repulsed. The situation at the other sectors of this Army Group remains unchanged.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Nothing to report.

With regard to the capture of Tytersaari see Situation Baltic Sea.

3. North Africa:

Apparently 1 Indian brigade at this front is being transferred to Egypt. Otherwise the usual patrol activity on both sides.

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3 Apr. 1942 (Good Friday)

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

The British radio reports that effective immediately automobile tires are subject to the strictest rationing.

Now as in the past the Indian problem is the center of attention. The opinion prevails that Cripps is aiming at a compromise with the Congress Party and that he can count on Nehru's cooperation. This attempted compromise may lead to a struggle for power between Gandhi and Nehru. In general all news reports are filled with contradictory and unclear information. However, it may be assumed that questions pertaining to India's defense, to her unity, and to the prerogatives of the principalities play decisive roles in the decisions to be made by the Congress Party.

On 3 Apr. Roosevelt's personal representative, Colonel Johnson, arrived in New Delhi, apparently in order to act as intermediary.

Sweden:

The German Embassy reports that high financial circles in Sweden still believe in an ultimate Anglo-American victory. This belief is based on the enormous Allied armament potential, particularly in the air. Systematic preparations are under way to make Great Britain a jumping-off place for the planned invasion of the Continent.

China:

A diplomatic report on the situation in Nanking-China notes that the government there has made very little progress toward the aims desired by Japan. As a matter of fact, the indoctrination and political training of the Chinese population, as well as the attempt to instill national consciousness in China's youth may present a very serious problem for the Japanese in the years to come. For details see Political Review No. 79, Paragraph 12.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

In connection with recent happenings which revealed the lack of understanding on the part of the Armed Forces High Command for the demands of the Navy, the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff emphasizes again that it is vitally important to detail a flag officer to the Fuehrer's headquarters. Cf. request of Deputy Chief of Operations Staff, Naval Staff. Copy in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees in principle with this viewpoint.

Otherwise no reports or decisions of importance were made.

Special Items:

In reply to the telegram of 1 Apr. sent by the Commander in Chief, Navy to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command, the following telegram was received on 2 Apr.:

"The order requesting the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West to investigate the engagement at St. Nazaire, as well as the questions attached, were issued in accordance with express instructions given to me by the Fuehrer. In Directive No. 40 the Fuehrer emphasized that he desires an investigation on the spot and a report to be made by Field Marshal von Rundstedt in order to guarantee a coordinated investigation. The Fuehrer reserves the right to question the Navy regarding any naval matters which this report may contain. Contrary to your belief the questions transmitted are not of my own choosing; they were stated by the Fuehrer and given to me for transmission. I expressed only the wish that these questions be available in time for discussion or for a combined investigation by the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West and the highest representative of the Navy, Admiral Saalwaechter, at their meeting in St. Nazaire. Should this action of mine which, as in all difficult situations, was guided by my most sincere desire to look after the interests of all branches of the Armed Forces concerned, not meet with proper understanding on your part, then it is left to you to submit your complaint directly to the Fuehrer."

The Commander in Chief, Navy replied:

"1. I am quite aware of the fact that Directive No. 40 had to be taken into consideration when the investigation was conducted. Still it should have been the affair of the Naval High Command to answer the special questions, most of which concern my responsibility. Therefore, the least I could have expected was to be informed of those measures taken by the Armed Forces High Command which are not covered by this order. You alone are responsible for the wording of the questions, a wording to which I strongly object.

2. I therefore wish to establish that in this case, contrary to your statement in your reply, you did not act in the interest of my branch of the Armed Forces to the extent desirable.

I shall refrain from bringing the matter to the Fuehrer's attention because I do not criticize his directive but the manner in which you transmitted it, whereby I was completely by-passed."

The Commanding Admiral, Group West was informed of the telegrams sent by the Commander in Chief, Navy to the Chief, Armed Forces High Command on 1 Apr. and 3 Apr. He was asked to instruct the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West of their contents.

Situation 3 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to information received from the Naval Attache in

Lisbon, reports by the German Consul in Ponta Delgada reveal that the British are using this harbor as if it were a British naval base. Thus they derive considerable benefit from Portuguese neutrality for the protection of their shipping lanes to Gibraltar and West Africa. This advantage would be sharply curtailed the moment Great Britain or the U.S. occupied the Azores, thereby subjecting the islands to possible attacks by the Axis powers.

This matter is discussed more in detail from the viewpoint of international law in the War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

South Atlantic:

An Argentine agent reports that Fernando Noronha is a combined U.S. and Brazilian naval base. At present 3 U.S. destroyers are stationed there. The U.S. cruiser SAVANNAH is operating in the La Plata area and the auxiliary cruiser BULOLO between Capetown, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires.

Indian Ocean:

On 3 Apr. radio intelligence intercepted 8 distress signals of British or Allied steamers in the Bay of Bengal. All steamers reported that they had been attacked by planes.

Note: Owing to extensive change of British codes as of 1 Apr. it is at present very difficult to evaluate and decipher British reports intercepted by radio intelligence.

2. Own Situation:

Ship "10" reports that she sank the Norwegian steamer AUST (5,630 GRT) in quadrant FT. This is the fourth time that ship "10" has surprised and sunk an enemy vessel before she was able to send out signals.

Orders were sent to the Naval Staff Quartermaster Division, Mines and Bases Section concerning ship "28" as per 1/Skl I k 7691/42 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I. Group West and Commanding Admiral, Submarines were informed of instructions sent to the RIO GRANDE by Radiogram 1417 on 30 Mar. The radiogram ordered the ship to meet a German submarine at point "Rotfeder" between 3 and 7 Apr. in order to be escorted into port. Copy as per 1/Skl I k 674/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

On 31 Mar. the Naval Attache in Tokyo submitted various questions and data concerning the voyage of the Japanese submarine to western France. The departure is set for 10 Apr. For copy as per 1/Skl 7629/42 Gkdos. see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

The Naval Staff replied on 1 Apr. Copy as per 1/Skl I opa 7584/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

On 2 Apr. the Naval Attache in Tokyo reported that the Japanese Navy limits the amount of raw materials to be carried by the Japanese submarine to 3 tons, as the boat will first operate in the northern part of the Indian Ocean. At the same time her load on the return voyage from Germany is limited too. It must not exceed 5 tons. The Naval Attache hopes that he can induce the Japanese authorities to include in the cargo about 1½ tons each of mica and shellac. However he

stated that platinum or diamonds cannot be procured even with the aid of the Japanese Navy. The Attache also reports that the Japanese Navy is very much annoyed because the request for supplies needed for the return voyage was turned down. He feels therefore that it is very doubtful whether the operation is going to come off at all.

The Naval Staff instructs the Attache to find out and report immediately who refused the Japanese request. At the same time he is to notify the Japanese naval authorities officially that the Japanese submarine may replenish her supplies at any time, and that the Japanese naval representative and the Japanese Naval Attache in Berlin have been informed accordingly.

For copies of these letters as per 1/Skl 7823/42 Gkdos. see War Diary, Part C, Vol. IX.

It is disappointing that the submarine has to limit her load to such a small amount of scarce raw materials.

Information was sent to all concerned in foreign waters concerning the present state of the Indian problem, and concerning Russo-British and Franco-American relations. See Radiograms 0712 and 2107.

Radiograms 1201 and 1611 contain information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Atlantic Coast:

Information on the position of enemy convoys according to dead reckoning was sent by Radiogram 2123 to the RIO GRANDE.

After a test voyage the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla entered La Pallice at 1400.

During the night of 2 Apr. enemy planes were active over the area of St. Nazaire, Nantes, and Lorient. No bombs were dropped.

Group West reports that on the occasion of the enemy's surprise attack on St. Nazaire the Commanding Admiral, France received a variety of inquiries and requests for information from higher authorities (Naval Staff and Armed Forces High Command). In some cases he answered immediately without consulting the Group Command. Group West requests that in the future deviations from normal procedures should occur in exceptional cases only and that the Group Command be informed when this happens. Group Command suggests also that the Armed Forces High Command follow the same procedure.

Group West also reports the arrival of General Jodl, who is meeting the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West by order of the Fuehrer. Seeking information for his report to the Fuehrer, General Jodl is trying to find out how the enemy was able to succeed in approaching and entering the harbor of St. Nazaire and what measures must be taken to protect our submarine bases against such attacks in the future. The Chief of Staff of Group West and the 1st Staff Officer with the Commanding Admiral, France have reported to the Chief of the General Staff of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West and given their

views regarding the engagement at St. Nazaire, and the methods used to repulse the enemy attack, as well as the chances for improving defense measures as laid down in earlier reports. In connection herewith General Jodl brought up the question whether the enemy would be successful in landing if he should make another attempt on the west coast. He was informed that this is not at all unlikely, mainly because the defense facilities and the defense forces in coastal waters are inadequate. Thereupon General Jodl pointed out that the Fuehrer believes it essential to form naval fortification areas in order to safeguard submarine bases along the west coast. Group West stressed the necessity of stationing Army troops directly in the harbors in order to protect these.

Copy of report as per 1/Skl 7903/42 Gkdos. is in reference file "British Landing in St. Nazaire 28 Mar." ("Englische Landung in St. Nazaire 28/3").

A new order of the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command concerning the organization of naval fortress brigades directs that in addition to the first naval fortress brigade which is being organized, at least 2 more brigades must be established. They are to be used for reinforcements on the following islands lying off the fortress areas: Ile de Groix, Belle Ile, Ile de Noirmoutier, Ile d'Yeu, Ile de Re, and Ile d'Oleron. Additional tasks will also be assigned to them in connection with coastal defense. The previous order is rescinded; the essential anti-aircraft protection will be organized by the High Command, Navy, not by the Commander in Chief, Air.

For copy of report as per 1/Skl 7892/42 Gkdos. see War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

2. Channel Coast:

During the night of 2 Apr. Le Havre was again subjected to a severe enemy air raid. Damage to buildings was heavy. The net barrage in front of the locks was also damaged.

During the night of 3 Apr. the 2nd and 4th PT Boat Flotillas operated in the waters off Great Yarmouth.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon and in the evening the British 18th Group made numerous reconnaissance flights over the German Bight and the Norwegian coast. At 1625 a plane reported a vessel showing a white flag. According to information from the 5th Air Force a report on the sighting of battleships (see War Diary 2 Apr.) proved to be false and was apparently caused by a code error.

Own Situation:

Mine layer OSTMARK reported that she suffered slight damage when she touched ground while proceeding in a southbound convoy in the area of Sellebrun Bank.

The 12th Subchaser Flotilla was transferred from Wesermuende to Antwerp. For the rest, convoy and mine-sweeping activities were carried out according to plan.

Group North is placing destroyer Z "28" and torpedo boat T "7" at the disposal of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North in order to escort the GNEISENAU and the POTSDAM while transporting troops from Hamburg to Oslo. They are to meet the transport off Heligoland on 6 Apr. Upon completion of their mission at the southern entrance to the Oslo Fjord they are to continue to Trondheim where they will report to the Commanding Admiral, Battleships. (See Telegram 1849.)

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance and observations from land, lively ship movements were observed in the outer Kola Bay, east of the Rybachi Peninsula, and along the Murmansk coast. In the morning 1 destroyer and 8 steamers were lying in Svyatoi Nos. In the afternoon 1 cruiser and 19 steamers were sighted between Polyarnoye and Murmansk.

Own Situation:

A belated report dated 2 Apr. was received with the information that near the spot where the steamer MICHAEL was sunk, a submarine chase was conducted and depth charges were dropped after an enemy submarine had been sighted. In the mornings of 2 and 3 Apr., enemy planes were active over the Norwegian north and west coasts. In connection with the break-through attempted by the Norwegian steamers out of Goeteborg the Naval Shore Command, Oslo Fjord area ordered an increased alert to last from 2000 on 2 Apr. until 1000 on 3 Apr. The area under the command of the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast returned to a normal state of readiness at 0900 on 3 Apr.

On 2 Apr. a cutter with 8 survivors and the bodies of 7 men drifted ashore on Soeroe. The men are former crew members of the U.S. steamer which was sunk en route to Murmansk.

Group North supports the requests for equipment made by the Commanding Admiral, Norway for the defense of Trondheim Fjord (see War Diary 2 Apr.). Group North requests in particular additional submarine chasers, which are not available within the Group area (see Telegram 1407).

Group North sends a detailed telegram in reply to the inquiry of the Naval Staff as to whether the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway has been informed of the allocation of landing craft as requested by the Naval Staff (see War Diary 2 Apr.). It states that the request made by the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway is probably connected with his discussion of 28 Mar. with the Chief of Staff of Group North. This request is apparently intended to support through channels Group North's allocation of landing craft and to accelerate this allocation. Group North feels that the Armed Forces High Command is entirely unjustified in thinking that the Navy fails to make arrangements for all measures which are possible and necessary. In the meantime the Admiral, Amphibious Forces has reported that the 21st Landing Craft Flotilla was activated on 1 Apr. Group North will be responsible for transferring it to Norway as soon as possible. (See also Telegram 1343.)

Copy of telegram as per 1/Skl 7882/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

Reporting on the degree of readiness of light naval forces the Fleet informs Group North (with copy to the Naval Staff) that the following are ready for transfer:

1. Z "28" will be ready on the evening of 5 Apr. at Wilhelmshaven in case shipyard trials are satisfactory, possibly with the Commander, Destroyers aboard.

2. T "7" will be ready at Kiel on 5 Apr.

3. STEINBRINK and LODY will be ready on 17 Apr., without training period.

4. Z "29", pending trial run, will be ready on 18 Apr. Training of crew almost completed.

5. Training period of BEITZEN completed; no training period for ECKOLDT; pending trial runs both are expected to be ready by the end of April.

6. Even without a training period Z "2" will not be ready before the middle of May. (See Telegram 1300.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

At 1448 Group North, on the basis of all reports and information so far received, gives an account of the situation concerning the breakthrough attempted by the Norwegian ships in Goeteborg. Its reports correspond completely with the impression gained by the Naval Staff in the evening of 2 Apr. The only new fact is that on 1 Apr. the steamer REALF II (4,000 to 5,000 GRT) was sighted lying at anchor in Swedish territorial waters, and that nothing is known of the whereabouts of the vessel. Group North does not venture an opinion as to whether the 5th Air Force sank the tanker RIGMOR or the tanker LIND. It considers it possible that 2 of the 3 seriously damaged ships, the NEWTON, the RIGMOR, and the LIND, may have escaped. According to a 5th Air Force report a westbound ship escorted by 1 destroyer was sighted in quadrant AN 4855 at 1400 on 2 Apr.

Group North also reports that measures for the purpose of intercepting enemy ships still in Swedish waters cannot be continued on the present scale because of insufficient forces. Therefore the following plans were made: In the future the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea will be responsible for the limited patrol of Swedish territorial waters. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North or the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast will patrol the mine field gaps at Hanstholm and Kristiansand South. The 6th PT Boat Flotilla will be transferred to Kristiansand South. The boundary of Swedish territorial waters and the Skagerrak will be covered by daily air patrols. For the time being no plans have been made to use submarines because of heavy German shipping traffic in the Skagerrak.

Copy of report as per 1/Skl 7889/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

In cooperation with the Commander, Naval Air, the naval forces available at Stavanger succeeded in repelling the break-through attempt of the blockade-runners. This was achieved in spite of the facts that information from Goeteborg was insufficient and that air reconnaissance was limited because of the few planes available and because of unfavorable weather conditions. The extent of our successes is proof of the high degree of alertness displayed by the participating naval forces. It must be taken into consideration that their striking power and speed were limited, that they had been employed in connection with this task for weeks, and that reports on the sailing of blockade-runners had often turned out to be false. In spite of all this the naval forces kept up their alertness throughout the operation.

With these words of praise Group North finishes the report to the Naval Staff, Operations Division, summarizing the entire operation "Prevention of the Break-Through attempted by Norwegian Ships in Sweden" covering the period beginning 10 Jan. 1942. For copy see War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries sends information that in the afternoon of 2 Apr. Russian forces of undetermined strength attacked Tytersaari which is occupied by Finnish troops. In the afternoon of 2 Apr. a platoon of the Esthonian home guard was sent there as reinforcement, to be followed in the night of 2 Apr. by 1 company. In the afternoon of 3 Apr. the main force set out consisting of 1 company of Naval Artillery Detachment 531, 1 battery of Naval Anti-Aircraft Detachment 239 equipped with searchlights, 1 Army field artillery battery, and 3 searchlights. Arrangements were made for fighter protection of the main group and for uninterrupted air reconnaissance on 3 and 4 Apr. (See Telegram 1045.)

The Naval Liaison Officer at the Armed Forces High Command was informed that the cruiser NUERNBERG will not be ready for operation until the end of September because of bomb damage to the main exhaust trunk of the turbine on the port side during the air raid on Kiel in the night of 12 Mar. (See Telegram 1818.)

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

At 2013 radio monitoring located a British vessel about 180 miles southwest of Land's End. 360 miles west of Cape Ortegal a German submarine sighted 1 light cruiser northbound at full speed.

Signals transmitted from the U.S. coast were intercepted, reporting the sighting of submarines and advising caution in the waters northeast and south of Cape Charles, off Cape Hatteras, and 400 miles east of Cape Hatteras. These signals mentioned the following: U.S. tanker OHIO (9,265 GRT), U.S. steamer DELSUD (4,982 GRT), the tanker ENSIS (6,207 GRT), the U.S. steamer OTHO (4,839 GRT), and the unknown steamer GRAIGLEA. The Admiralty also sent out a message to be on the look-out for submarines in the waters 180 miles west of the Azores. The steamer FLEUR DE LIS tried in vain to locate the damaged Dutch tanker OCANA in the area stated.

No reports were received from the West Indies area.

2. Own Situation:

On 31 Mar. submarine U "71" sank 1 tanker (8,000 GRT) and 1 steamer (6,000 GRT) 300 miles northeast of Cape Hatteras.

Submarine U "552" reported that she sank the Dutch tanker OCANA (6,256 GRT) off Cape Sable on 25 Mar., and the steamer ATWATER (2,818 GRT) off Cape Charles on 3 Apr.

Supplementary report on the situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

German air reconnaissance observed lively convoy traffic along the British east coast. In the course of German night operations 11 planes laid mines in the Thames River, and 3 planes attacked the Moreton military training center northeast of Weymouth.

During the night a small number of enemy planes flew over the West Area but did not cross into Reich territory.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

According to an agent's report, 28 special U.S. torpedo planes arrived in Alexandria.

The report of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South concerning bomber operations has not yet been received.

Reconnaissance activity over the central and eastern part of the Mediterranean, and aerial photography of Valletta, Tobruk, and Alexandria. For observations see Enemy Situation, Mediterranean. 2 battleships were located in Alexandria, one of which was the undocked VALIANT.

The order given by the Commander in Chief, Air that the battleship be attacked while in dock (see War Diary 1 Apr.) was received too late as far as the VALIANT is concerned.

> Although the battleship was in dock for a period of 3½ months the Air Force failed to make a real attempt to attack her. This is very much to be regretted, particularly so in view of the persistent British bomber attacks against our vessels in Brest.

3. Eastern Front:

During the night of 2 Apr. German planes began to mine the Kerch Strait. On 2 Apr. a direct hit was scored on a steamer (5,000 GRT) near Kamish Burun. In the course of this engagement 4 fighters were shot down. West of Anapa 1 tanker (8,000 GRT), sailing in a convoy, was sunk; 1 fighter was shot down.

No reports from the Army front.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

According to photographic reconnaissance no great changes were noted in Gibraltar, Valletta, and Marsa Matruh. In the afternoon the following vessels were observed in Alexandria in addition to the 2 battleships (see Aerial Warfare): 3 DIDO-class cruisers, 1 anti-aircraft cruiser, 3 destroyers, 5 submarines, the auxiliary ships previously mentioned, Greek and French vessels, 4 hospital ships, 5 tankers, and 44 steamers, totalling about 230,000 GRT.

The convoy reported on 2 Apr. has arrived in Tobruk. Convoy traffic between Tobruk and Alexandria was normal. Submarines were sighted 90 miles northwest of Tripoli, 180 miles north of Benghazi, and 120 miles northeast of Cape Misurata. The submarine sighted in the vicinity of Cape Misurata was attacked at 1705.

At midnight during the night of 3 Apr. radio monitoring intercepted reports from British planes that they had sighted 3 convoy groups of the 6th Transport Group consisting of 2 steamers and 2 destroyers each in the waters southeast to south of Malta.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 2 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi and Derna.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The 6th Transport Squadron left port according to schedule. At 0800 on 3 Apr. the 3 sections met. For the first time the squadron has been routed closer to Malta, in the belief that lately enemy air activity from this base has been considerably reduced. The convoy proceeded undisturbed until 1200. The steamer CAPO ARMA left Brindisi en route to Benghazi. In the evening the steamer UNA with 4 German motor mine sweepers is scheduled to sail from Trapani to Tripoli. In the evening of 2 Apr. the steamers REICHENFELS and PISANI and the tanker SATURNO left Tripoli bound for Naples. In the afternoon of 2 Apr. the hospital ship AQUILEA departed from Tripoli bringing back 93 German wounded. The steamer ATLAS is proceeding from Naples via Trapani and from there via Tripoli to Benghazi, taking the western route. As soon as the vessels of the 6th Squadron are unloaded in Tripoli, the steamers WACHTFELS and GIULIA will sail from there.

There was no interference with coastal traffic of naval barges and lighters.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Submarines were sighted south of Samos and northwest of Milos.

Own Situation:

During the night a German submarine was attacked by an

enemy submarine, which launched 3 torpedoes but failed to score a hit.

The steamers ARKADIA, SALZBURG, ALBA JULIA, and CELENO accompanied by 2 torpedo boats left Piraeus for the Dardanelles. The "Siena" group, comprising 3 steamers and escort, sailed from Piraeus bound for Suda.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Beginning at 0000 on 1 Apr. a complete change took place affecting the entire radio traffic of the Russian naval air force and the Russian coastal defenses in the Black Sea. It may therefore be expected that the German radio monitoring service will be working under a considerable handicap for the time being.

Our intelligence center in Rumania received a report from the Swedish Embassy that the heavy cruiser KRASNY KAVKAS is to be used as a merchant raider along the west coasts of the Black Sea.

Own Situation:

On 2 Apr. between 1800 and 2400 enemy planes attacked the destroyer REGINA MARIA and 4 naval barges while they were laying mines in the Karkinit Bay. The destroyer drew the attention of the shadowers to herself so that the barges were able to escape unnoticed. The LEX force (naval barges) arrived in Skadovsk.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

Nothing to report.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Bitter fighting with varying success in the Balakleya area.

Central Army Group:

All enemy attacks along the entire front of the 2nd Panzer Army were repulsed. In the rear area guerillas captured Krasni Rog and the supply road from Pochep to Bryansk was blocked off. Transport of German supplies is extremely difficult. Southwest of Yukhnov a Russian thrust collapsed with heavy casualties to the enemy. In the rear area German forces launched attacks south and southwest of Vyazma. Our attacks northwest of Vyazma progressed satisfactorily. Enemy attacks northeast of Gzhatsk and in the Rzhev area were repulsed.

Northern Army Group:

All enemy attacks in various sectors of the group were unsuccessful.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Situation unchanged.

3. North Africa:

In the area of Sidi Rezegh air reconnaissance established the presence of 800 motor vehicles. Until now enemy forces in this area had been rather weak. Otherwise normal patrol activity; increased artillery activity. Tank Situation: Total of 334 German and Italian tanks.

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4 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

According to a New York report British circles in India claim that the War Cabinet has given Cripps complete freedom in his negotiations with the Indian nationals. It is believed that certain concessions in the form of a compromise will have to be made with regard to the question of defense.

U.S.S.R.:

In his commentary in the "Daily Mail" dealing with the situation at the Eastern Front, Liddel Hart points out that the situation is decidedly favorable to the Germans. The Germans have been successful in holding their chief bastions, the important cities along the front from Schluesselburg to Taganrog. Hart also expresses the opinion that Russian losses suffered as the result of their offensive during the winter were probably higher than the losses inflicted on the Germans in their defensive position.

Balkans:

Comments made by persons holding official positions in Hungary and Rumania contradict rumors which claim that these countries no longer desire to continue in the common battle against Bolshevism side by side with the Axis powers.

Arabia:

According to the official German news agency (DNB) Emir Feisal, Ibn Saud's son, and Governor of Hejaz, stressing British friendship with the Arabian people, called on Arab countries to create a Pan-Arabian bloc under British leadership in accordance with Colonel Lawrence's plans. The press urges that an Arabian conference similar to the Rio conference of Pan-American countries should be called.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. On 2 Apr. the Operations Staff, Armed Forces High Command transmitted the following orders of the Fuehrer:

1. The reinforcement of naval forces in Norway is to be accelerated. The dates set for the transfer of additional units are to be advanced, particularly with regard to the cruiser NUERNBERG.

2. In order to make the Skagerrak and the coastal shipping lanes along the coast of Denmark and Norway more secure, additional mine fields are to be laid for which the large existing stock of mines is to be used.

3. Measures under consideration should be reported.

The measures planned by the Naval Staff for quite some time were included in the latest report which the Commander in Chief, Navy made to

the Fuehrer.

It must be stated that the cruisers NUERNBERG and KOELN will have to undergo repairs before they can be used for further operations; due to their continuous service as training ships, they are completely run down. The cruiser KOELN will be ready for action at the end of May. Repairs on the cruiser NUERNBERG were expected to be finished at about the same time. However, since machine parts for this ship were destroyed during air attacks against Kiel shipyards on 12 and 13 Mar., repairs will take until the end of Aug. 1942.

At present the repair of both cruisers is being carried on at the expense of submarine construction.

After completion of the most essential repairs on the LUETZOW it is planned to transfer this cruiser during the new moon period in May.

In April or May, 4 additional destroyers will be added to the 6 now operating in northern waters.

Plans have been completed for laying 25,705 mines to be taken from existing stocks; 10,438 of these will be used for strengthening the mine fields in the Skagerrak and in the shipping lanes along the coasts of Denmark and Norway. During the past months all mine-laying units available have been employed in connection with this task.

The Chief, Naval Staff approves a reply to the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff with special emphasis on the fuel situation. The Operations Staff is aware of the effect of this situation on naval operations and ship movements. The reply will also point out that the number of mines on hand known to the Armed Forces High Command includes - with the exception of a number of special mines - the mines stored in the Mediterranean and Black Sea areas, as well as those which the Navy has made available to the Air Force. Copy of telegram as per 1/Skl I a 7833/42 Gkdos. is in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

II. On 1 Apr. the Naval Staff informed the Commander in Chief, Fleet and the Fleet Command, with a copy to Commander, Destroyers, that the Commander in Chief, Navy feels that the light forces, in the face of special difficulties resulting from operations in the Arctic Ocean, must be commanded by particularly seasoned officers. Therefore the Commander in Chief, Navy orders an investigation of the possibility of relieving the Commander, Destroyers of his extensive duties in Germany to allow him personally to take over command of the destroyers in the Arctic Ocean.

On 3 Apr. the Commander in Chief, Fleet replied that at present only 2 groups of 3 destroyers each are in operation in Trondheim and along the Arctic coast. Considering the size of this force and the fact that the destroyers already have 2 experienced flotilla commanders it is apparently unnecessary that the Commander, Destroyers take over personal command there. In April, however, when the destroyer force in the Norway area will be reinforced by 4 additional destroyers - and providing that a flotilla commander is available in Germany - the Commander, Destroyers is going to transfer to Norway in order to take over duties in connection with the creation of an operational focal point or a concentration of forces. In view of the large number of destroyers still remaining in German waters the Commander in Chief, Fleet recommends that this plan be approved.

Upon the recommendation of the Naval Staff, the Chief, Naval Staff

gives his approval. The Commander in Chief, Fleet, the Fleet Command, the Commander, Destroyers, and the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division were informed of the decision.

III. The Chief, Naval Staff, Communications Division reports that in reply to a Navy request the Commander in Chief, Air will allocate 12 anti-aircraft radar units (Wuerzburggeraet) in April and 75 such units in August to be used by naval anti-aircraft forces.

IV. 1. The Chief, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division reads the telegram sent to the High Command, Army and the Armed Forces High Command, with a copy to the Commander in Chief, West. It concerns the point of view taken by the High Command, Navy (Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division) with regard to the organization of a naval fortress brigade as ordered by the Commander in Chief, Navy in accordance with orders given by the Armed Forces High Command on 27 Mar. and by the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West of 29 Mar. The latest order concerning the organization of additional brigades (see War Diary 3 Apr.) issued on 3 Apr. by the Armed Forces High Command could not be taken into consideration as yet because so far the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division has failed to receive it. For copy of telegram text as approved by the Chief, Naval Staff see 1/Skl 8144/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

2. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division submits a plan to the effect that in the future PT boats type 1941 should be built in place of destroyers, provided that PT boats type 1939 prove their efficiency in combat (see War Diary 25 Mar.). In accordance with the recommendation of the Naval Staff, the Commander in Chief, Navy approves this plan only because of the scarcity of raw materials which exists at present.

V. The Deputy Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the information to be submitted by the Naval Staff for the conference of the Fuehrer with the Duce. The material supplied by the Naval Staff includes a brief outline of the Mediterranean situation and comments of the Naval Staff on the Suez plan. The essential prerequisites for the execution of the plan are:

1. The solution of the oil problem.

2. Readiness of adequate shipping space.

3. Complete elimination of Malta.

4. Establishment of adequate harbor facilities in North Africa.

5. Effective blockade of the Strait of Sicily.

Copy as per 1/Skl Ib 734/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

VI. Report by Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff on information received from Group West regarding General Jodl's visit to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West (see War Diary 3 Apr.).

Situation 4 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an Italian report the cruiser DURBAN, homeward-bound from the Pacific, has stopped at Ponta Delgada to take on supplies.

Indian Ocean:

According to agent report a convoy consisting of about 40 transport ships carrying troops and war supplies and about 10 tankers will leave from Mobile and Pensacola during the Easter holidays. It is believed that the convoy is heading for New Zealand. It will be escorted by the cruiser ATLANTA while in the vicinity of Panama. On leaving Panama an unidentified strong escort force will take over. The agent report also mentions that a Europe-bound convoy carrying about 10,000 men is to sail from Boston around Easter.

The battleship NEW MEXICO on her way from the Pacific to Newport News, where she will go into dry dock, passed Panama on 23 Mar. It is said that the ship is severely damaged.

2. Own Situation:

The report of ship "10" that she sank the steamer AUST was confirmed by Radiogram 0111.

Radiogram 2011 informs ship "10" that the Naval Staff is under the impression that the 4 ships intercepted so far were sunk, because there has been no news on the dispatching of prizes. Congratulations are conveyed to ship "10" on her fourth success.

Radiogram 0116 gives instruction to the DOGGERBANK that it is planned to carry out the "Kairo" mission in the next new moon period.

Radiograms 1430, 1510, and 1805 carry a message of the Commander in Chief, Navy to the crews of all ships on the high seas wishing them a happy Easter holiday.

Supplementing earlier instructions regarding the trip to Europe planned by the Japanese submarine, the Attache in Tokyo is informed that all Spanish, Portuguese, French, Swiss, and Swedish ships carrying neutral markings which are illuminated at night must not be stopped or attacked.

Copy of this order as per 1/Skl 7915/42 Gkdos. is in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Information on enemy situation in Radiogram 2202.

II. Situation West Area

1. Atlantic Coast:

Nothing to report.

2. Channel Coast:

During the night of 3 Apr. the 2nd and the 4th PT Boat Flo-

tillas carried out torpedo and mine-laying operations according to schedule. The 2nd PT Boat Flotilla did not fire any torpedoes because no enemy ships were sighted. For short reports see Telegram 1040.

In the waters of the Straits of Dover naval forces swept 15 mines; 3 others were detonated by mine-sweeping aircraft.

Between 1130 and 1550 enemy planes flew over the Calais area.

3. Special Items:

During the month of March naval forces under the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West were subjected to 10 enemy air attacks in the course of which 5 enemy planes were shot down. 4 vessels were damaged and 2 men were killed.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Nothing of importance occurred.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

Own Situation:

The 15th Mine Sweeper Flotilla reports that on 3 Apr. at 1845 it was unsuccessfully attacked by an enemy submarine which was later sighted and counterattacked.

On 4 Apr. a report was received that a boat had arrived in Josing Fjord with 25 survivors of the tanker STORSTEN.

This confirms the report of the Commander, Naval Air on the sinking of this tanker.

In answer to the inquiry of the Admiral, North Sea the 8th Destroyer Flotilla replied that it became necessary to blow up the destroyer Z "26", after both engines had ceased to function and all guns were out of commission, because it was feared that enemy destroyers might make the attempt to board the ship. (See Telegram 1600.)

In reply to his inquiry the Navy Liaison Officer attached to the Armed Forces High Command was given details on mine fields in the approaches to the White Sea. Copy of telegram as per 1/Skl 7974/42 Gkdos. is in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The Commanding Admiral, Norway sent a report concerning gaps 1 to 5 in the southern part of the Stadland mine field laid by the OSTMARK on 28 Mar. as per 1/Skl 7985/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

For reasons of safety the hospital ship BERLIN was transferred to Tromsoe where she will remain at the disposal of the Admiral, Polar Coast or the Commanding General, Norwegian Theater. This was done on

the suggestion of the Commanding General, Norwegian Theater and Lapland after medical installations of the Army had been removed from the Kirkenes area. The Commanding Admiral, Norway reports that the 2 small hospital ships BIRKA and ALEX will evacuate the wounded. The hospital ship ROSTOCK will also be ordered to the polar coast. The Senior General Staff Officer, Scandinavia has requested a large hospital ship for the evacuation of the wounded from Oslo (see Telegram 1810).

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

According to a report by a Swedish correspondent in London, 1 of the 10 Norwegian ships in Goeteborg succeeded in reaching Great Britain.

2. Own Situation:

For report of the Naval Staff to the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff on operations which prevented the break-through of Norwegian ships from Sweden see 1/Skl I a 7958/42 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The Swedish steamer INGEREN was captured by patrol boats and will be taken to Friedrichshafen because she had failed to obey when ordered to sail to Kristiansand South.

German convoys are proceeding according to schedule.

According to the situation report of the Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries concerning Tytersaari, the German task force is expected to arrive at the island at noon.

According to Finnish air reconnaissance the Russians are sending considerable reinforcements from Shepel to Seiskari. It is planned to bring the "Nettelbeck" battery and Naval Anti-aircraft Battery 239 to Tytersaari, also enough food supply for 3 months.

The Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries requests definite agreement of Group North that - in case Seiskaari and Lavansaari are not taken by the Army - Naval Artillery Detachment 531, 1 Army coastal battery and 1 battery of Naval Anti-Aircraft Detachment 239 will be withdrawn from the Army unit for sole use on Tytersaari.

For copy of report see 1/Skl 7961/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

On 3 Apr. the U.S. steamer WEST IRMO (5,755 GRT) was torpedoed 180 miles south of Takoradi. The U.S. tanker EVELYN (3,141 GRT) was torpedoed and set afire off the U.S. coast in the approaches to the Chesapeake Bay. The U.S. tanker ARGON reports being chased by a subma-

rine south of Cape Lookout. Additional reports about sighting of submarines were intercepted from the steamer MAUNA KEA south of Long Island and from the British motor tanker ENSIS north of Bermuda.

2. Own Situation:

On 29 Mar. after chasing the steamer HERTFORD (10,923 GRT) for 14 hours submarine U "571" sank the vessel, which carried meat and butter from Australia.

For detailed report on the situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

On 4 Apr. 150 German planes took off on reconnaissance, anti-submarine, and other operations. 12 Spitfires were shot down.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Valletta was the target of a wave of air attacks. The planes were able to observe hits on the government shipyard and docks and on the forward part of a cruiser lying in dock there.

3. Eastern Front:

Reconnaissance flights covered the Black Sea area. Over the Baltic Sea 132 bombers and 59 fighters attacked naval targets at Leningrad in a large-scale operation. It was reported that OKTYABRSKAYA REVOLUTSIYA and MAKSIM GORKI were each hit by one 1,000 pound TC bomb, and the KIROV by one 500 pound TC bomb.*

In the Arctic Ocean 1 steamer was damaged in Eina Bay and 1 steamer of 1,200 GRT was sunk in Motovski Bay. In Iokanga Bay 4 steamers were attacked. It is believed that all 4 vessels were hit.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

According to an intelligence report from Spain a convoy is expected to sail from Gibraltar on 4 Apr. According to radio monitoring submarines were very active in the central and eastern part of the Mediterranean and there was much traffic of ships carrying supplies from Alexandria to Cyprus, Beirut, and Haifa.

Air reconnaissance sighted 1 inbound and 1 outbound convoy off Alexandria.

At 2350 a British plane reported locating a target by means of air-to-vessel radar equipment. Shortly afterward it reported sighting 2 destroyers and 1 large northbound ship, speed 25 knots. Location was not given.

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* Note: No German bomb carrying this designation is known. It is suggested that TC is a misprint and that PC (armor-piercing bomb) was actually meant.

An unconfirmed intelligence report claims that the QUEEN ELIZABETH was ripped open at the starboard bow down to the waterline and that she was also severely damaged at the stern. It is claimed that the damage which was visible from the outside took 2 months to repair. Work was completed on 5 Feb.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 3 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi repeatedly.

The Italian submarine MOCENIGO reports sinking a Malta-bound tanker in the Western Mediterranean on 14 Mar.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The 6th Transport Squadron arrived in Tripoli after an uneventful voyage.

The tanker SATURNO failed to leave Tripoli on 3 Apr. All other transport shipping is proceeding according to schedule.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Nothing to report.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance over the Sea of Azov sighted 2 merchant ships off Gelendzhik, 1 merchant ship northwest of Anapa, 30 small merchant vessels in Akhtari. 10 small merchant vessels were sighted at sea.

Own Situation:

Nothing to report.

The plan to put into action the 2 newly built submarines of the Rumanian Navy under German command and with a large proportion of German personnel has met with considerable misgivings on the part of the Admiral, Black Sea, who emphasized that this would greatly affect the morale of the Rumanian Navy. He proposed that all German personnel should be withdrawn from these submarines with the exception of a small German training crew.

The Tactical Branch of the Naval Staff, Submarine Division has therefore been ordered to modify the present German plan accordingly.

VIII. Situation East Asia

1. Enemy Situation:

The U.S. Navy Department announced that the destroyer PEARY sank at Port Darwin on 19 Feb.

According to Reuter the aircraft carrier LANGLEY and the tanker PECOS were sunk between the end of February and the beginning of March.

A military spokesman in Chungking announced details of a Japanese landing near Akyab on the west coast of Burma, about 130 kilometers north of Prome. Officials in New Delhi maintain that this report is false.

2. Situation Japan:

The news of the landing near Akyab has not been confirmed up to the present time. According to the Military Attache in Bangkok mopping-up operations in Timor are being slowed down due to the anti-Japanese attitude of the Portuguese authorities. At the Burma front the enemy systematically devastates the areas he is forced to evacuate.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Heavy losses were inflicted on an enemy regiment attempting a night attack at the Feodosiya front. An enemy attack made along the entire northwestern front of the Von Kleist Army Group, from Slavyansk as far as Varvarovka, was broken up or brought to a halt.

In the area east of Kharkov livelier combat activity developed.

Central Army Group:

Various enemy attacks against sectors of the 2nd Panzer Army and the 4th Army were repulsed.

Northern Army Group:

Due to unfavorable weather the Von Seydlitz Group was forced to postpone its attack. All enemy attacks were repulsed.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Situation unchanged.

3. North Africa:

No reports.

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5 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

India:

In a public speech on 4 Apr. the President of the Moslem League emphasized that he is determined to force the acceptance of the state of Pakistan, that is the partition of India into Hindu and Moslem states.

It is said that leading Arab personalities are planning to appeal to the 80 million Mohammedans of India in order to induce them to accept the British proposals.

It is anticipated in Chungking that Roosevelt will intervene in the negotiations at New Delhi.

U.S.A.:

According to Reuter the American Rear Admiral Oldendorf has taken over command of all Dutch forces on Curacao and Aruba.

The Associated Press reports that the State Department has appointed a Consul-General to the "Free-French" government in Brazzaville, which is tantamount to recognizing the De Gaulle government in Africa including the Cameroons.

Situation 5 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Sailing orders were issued to supply ship DRESDEN. Sailing as blockade-runner she will carry goods to Japan and will supply auxiliary cruisers on the way. After the cargo is aboard, the ship has orders to sail on or after 12 Apr. For copy of order see 1/Skl I k 649/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

Radiogram 1608 informs all ships in foreign waters about the political situation in Argentina following the by-elections there, and on the Pan-American Defense Conference in Washington.

Radiograms 1952 and 2140 were sent giving the positions of the Swedish steamers BALBOA and VINGAREN engaged in authorized American traffic and information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

At 0545 and 0610 coastal batteries east of St. Jean de Luz reported sighting a vessel off the coast, approximately the size of a patrol boat, firing starshells. When the boat was taken under fire she turned off in a northerly direction.

According to air reconnaissance 3 unidentified westbound vessels were located in quadrant BF 9811 (30 miles north of Bilbao) at 1130. (It was not possible to determine whether they were torpedo boats, PT boats, or other types.) At 1520 seven vessels - 2 destroyers and 5 PT boats - escorted by 1 seaplane were sighted 40 miles northwest of Santander on course 310°. At 1710 the formation was sighted in quadrant BF 8659 steering a westerly course.

The British evidently planned some sort of small-scale operation aimed at Bayonne or St. Jean de Luz. It is possible that poor visibility and lack of light signals were responsible for navigational mistakes. (See Telegram 2130.)

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Naval Artillery Detachment 286 reports that with elevation set at 45° Battery Socoa West opened fire on a suspicious vessel off the coast. For combat report of Naval Artillery Detachment 286 see 1/Skl 8024/42 Gkdos. in reference file "Enemy Operation against St. Jean de Luz, 5 Apr. 1942".

With the withdrawal of Coastal Reconnaissance Squadron 2/906 only 4 He 111 planes, ready for action, will remain at the disposal of the Naval Air Command, Atlantic Coast for reconnaissance operations of Group West. According to the 3rd Air Force it is planned to withdraw even those planes in the near future. Group West calls attention to its detailed statement regarding the importance of safeguarding submarines, auxiliary cruisers, and blockade-runners along the Atlantic coast, a fact which previously caused the Naval Staff to bring the matter to the attention of the Commander in Chief, Air (see War Diary 24 Mar.).

In view of the attack on St. Nazaire and the enemy's appearance off St. Jean de Luz, Group West informs the 3rd Air Force that evening reconnaissance flights off the coast are absolutely essential as far as 150 miles out, or as far as the enemy's coastline. Group West requests that in consideration of the present lack of forces air reconnaissance cover at least the areas in the vicinity of the submarine bases along the Atlantic coast. (See Telegram 1850.)

> Naval Staff fully approves this request which is nothing but common sense. The fact that it was disregarded until now is contrary to the most fundamental rules of patrol.

Radiogram 2002 sent by Group West carries information to the RIO GRANDE of the likely location of north and southbound enemy convoys between 18° and 30° W.

Channel Coast:

The Admiral, French Coast reports that the harbor entrance to Calais will be protected by a permanently closed mine field. This order will take effect immediately. (See Telegram 1900.)

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Especially careful precautions for its safety having been taken, the northbound convoy will put to sea in the evening of 24 Apr. It will sail under the personal command of the Commanding Admiral. Defenses, North; the POTSDAM and GNEISENAU will be in the convoy.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

Own Situation:

Unfavorable weather caused the PT boat operation to be cut short. On 3 Apr. a mine was cut in Petsamo Fjord. On 4 Apr. a Russian battery, whose location could not be determined, opened fire on Nurmansaetti, whereupon mine-sweeping operations were called off. On 3 and 4 Apr. enemy planes were active over Stavanger, Trondheim, Vardoe, and Petsamo. In Petsamo light damage to installations was caused by 45 bombs. In the morning of 5 Apr. the upper floor of the building housing the command post of the Naval Shore Command, Stavanger burned out. There is no reason to suspect sabotage.

Group North approves the proposal of the Commanding Admiral, Norway concerning the anti-submarine mine field between Baroe and Rotvaer for the protection of Narvik. (See Telegram 1054.)

Plans for the Laying of Mines along the Northern Route: (See War Diary 21 Feb.)

The Admiral, Arctic Ocean, the Commanding Admiral, Norway, as well as Group North voiced misgivings with regard to the proposal of the Naval Staff to mine the northern route. These misgivings are based on lack of knowledge about convoy routes, limitations imposed on the movement of German naval forces, and inadequacy of the mines in heavy sea.

The Naval Staff is of the opinion that north and northeast of Vardoe the enemy convoy route is relatively narrow owing to the ice boundary on the one hand and the deterrent effect of our own coast on the other. Since it will be increasingly difficult to get at the convoys now that the nights are beginning to become lighter - and since it is imperative to inflict damage on enemy supplies to Russia by any possible method - we should not let the resulting inconvenience to our own operations keep us from mining the convoy route. On 9 Mar. the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff informed the Commanding Admiral, North of this viewpoint by telephone. The Commanding Admiral, Group North promised to have the matter investigated and directed the Commanding Admiral, Norway (Admiral, Arctic Ocean) to work out a plan. The plan submitted by the Admiral was received; he strongly advised against putting it into effect. At the same time the plan presented would achieve so little that the Naval Staff decided not to pursue the matter any further. Of the various ways by which damage could be inflicted on enemy convoys en route to Murmansk, the use of German submarines off the Kola Bay will probably be out of the question as soon as the nights are beginning to become lighter. So far we have failed to exploit the potentiality of using mines as an offensive measure.

On 4 Apr. Group North was therefore ordered to examine this possibility anew in accordance with the original Naval Staff proposal (see War Diary 21 Feb.) and in addition to consider the extension of the Bantos mine field further eastward.

The Commanding Admiral, Norway who was informed of this request notified Group North and the Naval Staff that mines have been used offensively wherever possible, for example in the case of the Bantos mine field and Kuesel I. He added that the withdrawal of the destroyers provided for this purpose had put a halt to further similar mine-laying activities; the consequences of the withdrawal had been pointed out by the Commanding Admiral, Norway at the time (see Telegram 1300).

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Patrol and escort activities in the Kattegat and Skagerrak are proceeding according to plans and without any special incidents.

Group North calls attention to the regular flights made by enemy courier planes from Great Britain to Sweden via North Jutland. On 5 Apr. 3 such planes were observed between 0300 and 0400. The Naval Staff notified the Commander in Chief, Air to take further action.

By special request of the German Foreign Office the results of the successes which we won in connection with the break-through attempted by the Norwegian ships in Sweden have not yet been made public. Publication will be delayed until more facts have been obtained through interrogation of prisoners of war regarding the Swedish attitude. Group North and the Chief of Staff, Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea request that the results be made known as soon as possible because of their stimulating effect on the discipline and the morale of the crews of the patrol boats that participated. (See Telegram 1042.)

The Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries sent word that the main group reached Tytersaari according to schedule at 1100 on 4 Apr. 30 Russians still on the island were annihilated. During the night of 4 Apr. Tytersaari was attacked by enemy planes. A naval construction crew of 150 men is employed on Tytersaari to keep the icy roads open and to build defense installations and roads.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Sailing west, a convoy of 17 ships put to sea from Gibraltar. 2 of the vessels are equipped with catapults. The convoy is escorted by 2 destroyers, 1 gunboat, and 6 corvettes.

A number of messages were intercepted concerning submarines sighted off the U.S. coast. Off Cape Hatteras a burning vessel was reported which had probably been torpedoed. Signals from the following vessels were identified: U.S. tankers PETROFUEL, PHOENIX, CHESTER SUN, and RHODE ISLAND.

50 miles northeast of Aruba in the West Indies, the tanker PROMETHEUS

reported sighting submarines. The U.S. tanker CATAHOULA (5,030 GRT) was torpedoed 100 miles north of Mona Passage.

2. Own Situation:

Judging from enemy reports originating in the West Indies, submarine U "154" has evidently arrived in her operational area.

For a detailed report on the situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

Group West requests reinvestigation of the possibility of assigning a different flotilla to the Inspectorate of Torpedoes so that the particularly well-experienced 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla might remain in the West Area.

Group West supports its request by calling attention to the Fuehrer's orders according to which the support of submarine warfare is of prime concern. Mine reconnaissance of the outer sea lanes of the Bay of Biscay and exploratory sweeps into that area form the main task of the flotilla, since it is most essential for submarine warfare that these outer lanes be kept open. It is a proven fact that a fast and effective torpedo boat flotilla is much better suited for such extensive assignments than the modern mine sweeper flotilla.

While the Commanding Admiral, Submarines agrees with the reasons given for this request, he asks that it be approved only if the vessels to be provided for torpedo-firing practice are equally good.

> This case demonstrates particularly that light surface forces are indispensable for submarine warfare, and it is apparent that construction of light surface vessels must not be neglected in favor of submarines.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Enemy naval forces which had been located off the French-Spanish coast were unsuccessfully attacked at 2000. For reports of air reconnaissance see Enemy Situation, West Area. During the night 10 German planes laid mines in the Thames River; others attacked ships in the Bay of Biscay.

During the night of 5 Apr. 100 to 120 enemy planes made incursions into western Germany. The attacks were concentrated on the Cologne-Bonn area. There was little air activity over Belgium and northern France. In the west of France 20 planes attacked Paris, causing some damage.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The heavy air attacks against the government shipyard and dock installations of Valletta as well as the Halfar airfield were continued. It is believed that 4 hits were scored on the cruiser in dock. Large fires were observed among the fuel depots and dock installations. A merchant vessel and a harbor tanker at Valletta were also hit. There was less anti-aircraft defense and fewer fighter planes participated than during previous attacks.

During the night of 5 Apr. after an air reconnaissance sweep over the Crete-Alexandria area it is planned to attack the QUEEN ELIZABETH believed in dock there.

3. Eastern Front:

The Air Force was very active on all fronts. On 4 Apr. 453 planes were employed to supply the Army. They transported 841 tons of supplies and 221 men.

On 4 Apr. 38 enemy fighters were shot down during an attack on shipping in the Leningrad area. The ships' anti-aircraft fire of all calibers was very effective.

During the night of 4 Apr. 29 Ju 88's attacked ships and pier installations in Murmansk. No special results were observed.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Photographic reconnaissance of Alexandria reveals that the VALIANT and 3 destroyers are no longer in this harbor. The QUEEN ELIZABETH is presumably docking there.

No ship traffic was observed between Alexandria and Tobruk; a few vessels were seen north of Alexandria. It is believed that a hospital ship was sighted, most likely the LLANDOVERY CASTLE which is on the way to Smyrna where an exchange of wounded British and Italian prisoners of war is planned on 7 Apr.

Submarines were sighted off the southern entrance to the Strait of Messina and off Cape Vaticano.

2. Own Situation:

Motor mine sweeper R "13" is reported ready for operations. 4 motor mine sweepers were assigned to escort the steamer UNA.

3. Situation Italy:

During the night of 4 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi. Damage is negligible.

An Italian patrol plane attacked and allegedly sank an enemy submarine in the vicinity of Cape Vaticano.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The steamer UNA escorted by 4 German motor mine sweepers is on her way to Tripoli. The tanker SATURNO left Tripoli en route to Italy. All other ship traffic is proceeding according to schedule.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

During the night of 4 Apr. Piraeus was attacked from the

air, evidently by only 1 plane. It is believed that aerial mines were laid in the harbor of Piraeus.

Black Sea:

Nothing to report.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

Nothing to report.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

West of Slavyansk the enemy continued to suffer heavy losses in the course of his unsuccessful attacks.

East of Kharkov the fighting continues.

Central Army Group:

In the area east of Spas-Demensk the enemy launched a heavy attack. Fluctuating fighting is in progress. There is also bitter fighting west and east of Yukhnov. In the rear area of Vyazma German infantry and a panzer division advanced toward the north and captured 69 localities. The booty left behind in the course of the Vyazma battle of encirclement was recaptured. Northwest of Rzhev the enemy achieved a break-through.

Northern Army Group:

The Seydlitz Group is ready to attack. Some of the shock troops were very successful. In the 18th Army sector the switch position was held against heavy enemy pressure.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

According to statements made by prisoners of war the enemy is preparing to attack across the southern part of Lake Onega.

3. North Africa:

Enemy troops with tank support probed the German lines. All advances were repulsed.

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6 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

According to the official German news agency (DNB), Vichy circles believe that the stationing of a U.S. consul-general at Brazzaville does not necessarily imply the recognition of De Gaulle. Such action would lead to an immediate break in relations between France and the U.S. It is believed that the government of the U.S. would shy away from such a step and, depending on circumstances, might even put up with Laval's joining the government.

Situation 6 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an agent report from Portugal the lively exchange of telegrams between Salazar and the Governor of the Azores suggests that an Anglo-American coup is expected in the near future. The lights on the islands have been extinguished and the shores are manned. Rumors have it that the authorities and the people would aid the enemy powers in the event of an occupation.

According to an intelligence report from Spain the transport ship LLANGIBBY CASTLE towed by Dutch tugboats and escorted by 2 destroyers left Gibraltar on 6 Apr. in a westerly direction.

The return of Italian noncombatants from East Africa has begun as agreed upon by the Italian and the British Governments. In Gibraltar the Italian tankers TAIGETE and ARCOLA arrived under destroyer escort from Tenerife. After a short stop in Spain they are to proceed to Curacao probably for the purpose of loading fuel oil for the 4 transport ships. The first group of these, the VULCANIA and the SATURNIA, have also arrived in Gibraltar.

2. Own Situation:

Radiogram 1308 informed all vessels in foreign waters concerning the markings of the Italian East Africa steamer.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

The enemy force was last sighted by air reconnaissance in quadrant BF 8924 at 2110 on 5 Apr. According to the final report from Air Commander, Atlantic Coast the enemy unit at one time reportedly consisted of 2 torpedo boats and 3 shallow-draft barges, at another

time of 4 torpedo boats and 4 small harbor patrol boats. Group West interprets this as an attempt to blockade Bayonne or St. Jean de Luz. The latest position reported makes it appear that the operation might possibly be repeated early in the morning of 6 Apr. Air reconnaissance on 6 Apr. failed to observe any such signs.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The Gascogne Sea Defense Command sent a belated report that on 5 Apr. enemy naval forces fired on Biarritz from beyond searchlight range.

At 1400 on 6 Apr. mine sweeper M "4206" sighted an open empty British assault boat 10 miles north of St. Jean de Luz. The vessel, equipped with an iron ramp which can be lowered, had been damaged by a 10.5 cm. shell and was three-fourths water-logged. She sank during an attempt to bring her in.

Radiogram 1853 was sent to the RIO GRANDE to inform her that the convoy which left Gibraltar was steering a northerly course. Its position was 42° 15' N, 22° 30' W.

Channel Coast:

Nothing to report.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

On 5 Apr. naval anti-aircraft guns shot down 1 enemy plane making a low-altitude attack on Hanstholm. Over Schouven naval anti-aircraft guns shot down another plane while attacking 2 vessels of the Rhine flotilla. During the night of 5 Apr. strong enemy formations passed over the Flushing area.

The 8th transport group (842nd North Convoy) consisting of the steamers POTSDAM and GNEISENAU is escorted by the gunboat K "1", destroyer Z "28", torpedo boat "7", and PT boats "11", "73", and "74". The convoy left the Elbe 24 hours later than scheduled because the GNEISENAU had lost both anchors.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

Own Situation:

Petsamo Fjord has been cleared of mines. On 4 Apr. Murmansaetti was shelled. No damage was caused.

On 5 Apr. the destroyer HERMANN SCHOEMANN headed north from Trondheim in order to replace destroyer Z "28". At 1125 on 6 Apr. radar located a fast eastbound vessel south of Flekkeroe. In the vicinity of

Obrestad enemy torpedo planes made an unsuccessful attack. Enemy planes machine-gunned convoys off Stadland without results. Near Haugesund large fires destroyed a fodder supply depot and a fish storage plant; probably the result of sabotage.

Regarding plans for the mining of the Northern Route (see War Diary 5 Apr.) Group North joins the Commanding Admiral, Norway in opposing the original proposal of the Naval Staff. If carried out this plan would be of great disadvantage to German submarine operations. Group North points out that only a few days after the "Bantos A" mine field had been laid, it presented a serious handicap during the operation against convoy PQ 13. The Group also calls attention to the large number of drifting mines. In regard to offensive mining operations Group North refers to Naval Staff instructions of 2 Apr. which curb such operations because of the fuel situation. (1/Skl I g 700/42 Gkdos. War Diary, Part C, Vol. IX.) See Telegram 1718.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

After re-examination of all information on hand the 5th Air Force reports that the tanker RIGMOR was sunk and that motor tanker LIND (461 GRT) succeeded in getting away although 2 aerial torpedoes were fired at the vessel.

> Thus German evidence confirms that only the tanker NEWTON and the LIND succeeded in breaking through the blockade.

Convoy movements in the Skagerrak are handicapped by fog. On 3 Apr., evidently due to the ice situation, the Swedish steamer ALISKO was forced to leave Swedish territorial waters near Vaederoe. A German patrol boat escorted the vessel to her destination Kristiansand South (see Telegram 1432).

At 1045 the GNEISENAU arrived in Gdynia.

Details on Tytersaari are contained in the report of the Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries, see Telegram 0955.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Routine reconnaissance activity was carried out by the 15th and 19th Air Groups. In the afternoon and in the evening radio monitoring located 3 British vessels about 200 to 300 miles west of Brest.

Submarines were reported sighted off the American coast 70 miles north of Cape Charles, 50 miles south and 35 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras. At 1800 the Dutch steamer CRIJNSSEN sent a distress signal from a point 30 miles south of Cape Hatteras. An unidentified vessel reported that submarines attacked her 350 miles north of Bermuda and 360 miles east of Cape Hatteras. This was presumably the steamer DELVALLE (5,032 GRT), which was torpedoed.

Another submarine sighting report sent from an area 200 miles northeast of Havana was intercepted. It presumably concerns an Italian submarine.

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "505" in the South Atlantic reported that she attacked and probably sank the steamer WEST IRMO (5,775 GRT), and that she succeeded in sinking the steamer ALPHACCA (5,759 GRT) carrying a cargo of wool.

Submarine U "108" made contact with a northbound convoy 300 miles northwest of the Azores. The heavy sea and poor visibility made an attack too difficult. Therefore the Commanding Admiral, Submarines decided to refrain from any action against this convoy and ordered the submarines nearby to proceed westward.

300 miles east of Cape Hatteras a German submarine sighted a submerged submarine, probably an enemy vessel.

Convoy PQ 14 is expected to arrive off Jan Mayen on or about 7 Apr. For the purpose of intercepting it, Group North ordered 2 submarines operating as "Group Naseweis" to proceed to Jan Mayen and 4 other submarines operating as "Group Bums" to take up position in quadrants AB 8100 and 5700. Group North assumes that the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean will assign the majority of his fully serviceable submarines to attack the convoy in the strait between Bear Island and the North Cape, and - taking advantage of the darkness - that he will also attempt to send available destroyers against the convoy while passing Kola Peninsula; and finally that he will try to commit off Murmansk those submarines which will have become available by then. In view of possible enemy landing attempts "Group Naseweis" and "Group Bums" are to remain west of 24° E during this operation against convoy PQ 14. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean will take over operational command of all submarines committed as of 0000 on 7 Apr.

For copy of instructions issued by Group North see 1/Skl 8044/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

Submarine U "435" which had been assigned to the zone of operations off Kola Bay from 23 to 28 Mar. sent a brief report on tactical and navigational difficulties caused by the "Bantos A" mine field. On 30 Mar. the submarine in driving snow made a surface attack and sank a steamer (6,000 GRT) in quadrant AC 8646 at 1500. From 31 Mar. until 4 Apr. the submarine observed strong patrol forces off Kola Bay made up of destroyers, 5 torpedo boats, fast subchasers, submarines, steam trawlers, and planes.

For copy of brief reports see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

For an additional report on the situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Fighter bombers on a mission against ships in Poole Harbor, unable to locate their targets, attacked instead radio installations

at St. Alban's Head as their alternate target, machine-gunning radar equipment there.

Two FW 200's of the 5th Air Force were not successful in locating convoy PQ 14.

During the night 29 German planes layed mines in the Thames River. 55 enemy planes attacked the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Heavy attacks against Valletta continued. 1 destroyer in dock and 1 floating crane were hit and set afire. During the night of 5 Apr. the X Air Corps carried out heavy attacks against African airfields. On 6 Apr. fighter bombers and bombers of the Naval Air Command, Africa supported a thrust made by reconnaissance forces of the Africa Corps.

For results of air reconnaissance activities see Enemy Situation, Mediterranean Theater. An enemy air attack against the Derna airfield destroyed 4 German planes.

3. Eastern Front:

On 4 Apr. the German Air Force was very active particularly over the area facing the central army front. 19 locomotives and 8 enemy trains were destroyed and others damaged.

There is nothing to report from the Baltic Sea and the Arctic Ocean.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

According to photographic reconnaissance the following vessels were lying in Valletta harbor: 1 damaged light cruiser, 2 destroyers, 1 of them with her stern under water, 3 damaged or burned-out merchant ships, and 1 escort vessel. Reconnaissance was incomplete.

The British destroyer HAVOC was sighted afire on the beach of Cape Bon under French guard. According to French information the crew of the destroyer took to the boats and are now interned in Algiers. There was little ship traffic in the Tobruk-Alexandria area. North and east of Alexandria and Port Said brisk ship traffic was observed.

Photographic reconnaissance at 0854 showed the QUEEN ELIZABETH in dock. It was not possible to locate the VALIANT either in Alexandria, Haifa, or in Beirut.

2. Situation Italy:

Enemy planes attacked Benghazi during the night of 5 Apr.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Transports proceeded according to schedule.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Nothing to report.

VIII. Situation East Asia

1. Enemy Situation:

An agent report on the situation in India and Australia stresses the weak British military position there and British apprehension over the defense of New Zealand. For details see daily situation.

2. Situation Japan:

The Japanese Naval Staff sent word that the Japanese Air Force attacked Colombo on 5 Apr. 2 British cruisers were sunk and 60 planes destroyed. Japanese naval forces were very active in the Bay of Bengal. Carrier planes of 3 Japanese task forces attacked numerous enemy steamers. On 5 and 6 Apr. 10 steamers were sunk off the coast of India.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

There was only limited local fighting.

Central Army Group:

After heavy fighting superior enemy forces took the city of Fomina in the sector of the 4th Army. Near Yukhnov, in the rear area close to Preobrazhensk, north of the highway Gzhatsk-Mozhaisk as well as southwest of Staritsa enemy attacks were brought to a halt. A counterattack repulsed Russian forces which had infiltrated north of Rzhev. An advancing German panzer division succeeded in capturing Dernovo and several other localities in the vicinity. 1 German unit advancing from Smolensk toward Byeloi joined German advance troops near Bor where stubborn enemy resistance was broken. South of Velizh German troops succeeded in their attempt to advance eastward.

Northern Army Group:

Due to stubborn enemy resistance the Von Seydlitz Group is making only slow progress in the wooded terrain in spite of strongest air support. All enemy attacks at various other points along the front were unsuccessful.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

2 reinforced Russian naval brigades are expected to attack

at the point where the Svir empties into Lake Ladoga.

3. North Africa:

Disrupted communications kept reports from coming through.

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7 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

According to a British radio report Churchill's remark "the Conservative Party is the base of the rock on which Great Britain's salvation rests and through which the freedom of humanity can be regained" was criticized by Greenwood as harmful to British unity.

India:

It is claimed that the Executive Committee of the All-India League agrees in principle with British proposals. Since, however, India is considered a territorial unit, the Committee objects to calling the Indian state of the future an "Indian Union". Nehru too is said to have emphasized again that the India of the future must include all Indian states, not only British India.

Turkey:

The Turkish Government, fearing a strain on Russo-Turkish relations should the findings of the investigation concerning the attempt on Papen's life be made public, has postponed publishing the Red Book until a more suitable time, that is until the development of spring operations can be foretold.

Bulgaria:

According to Transocean News Service, Sofia circles believe that after King Boris' return from Germany no major political or military changes are to be expected in that country, at least not for the time being.

South America:

According to information from a diplomatic source, the Inter-American Defense Committee of the 21 American republics meeting in Washington is discussing chiefly military matters. One of the principal points to be settled is the question of Inter-American convoys, a matter in which Argentina displays much reserve. On 6 Apr. the committee opened its sessions under the chairmanship of General Embick.

Plans are under way for a conference in Montevideo on 15 Apr. which will deal above all with political questions. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela will send delegates. This committee of 7 will represent all members of the Pan-American Union. One of the topics up for discussion will be united efforts aimed at suppressing subversive activities, sabotage, espionage, and propaganda.

Japan:

According to the official German news agency (DNB), Tojo made the statement that now is the time for Japan to strike heavy blows against British troops and military installations in India. He also warned that the Japanese campaign will cause much suffering among the people of India if they continue to tolerate British militarism as they have in the past.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

No special reports or decisions.

Special Items:

I. The Commander in Chief, Navy received the following telegram from the Chief, Armed Forces High Command:

"The Fuehrer has received the report on the British attack on St. Nazaire which he had requested directly from Field Marshal von Rundstedt. After reading it the Fuehrer has expressed no further criticism of the state of preparedness, the operation, and the performance of the land defenses. In view of the importance of St. Nazaire as a submarine base, however, the Fuehrer considers the preventive measures and the defense facilities for which the Navy was responsible entirely inadequate. They were entirely insufficient to prevent the enemy from advancing toward and entering the Loire estuary, the harbor channels, and even the harbor area itself. The Fuehrer maintains that security and patrol vessels, mine fields and various other obstacles, supplementing one another, should have been able to detect the approaching enemy vessels early enough so that all defensive means could have been put into action long before the enemy reached the harbor area. The Fuehrer maintains that the report of Field Marshal von Rundstedt is inadequate where it deals with the afore-mentioned question.

The Fuehrer expects therefore that the Grand Admiral report to him in person as soon as possible on these measures and the reasons for their inadequacy, regardless of the fact that on 30 Mar. the Naval Staff submitted a report by the Admiral, France with the Naval Staff's own comments."

See telegram 1/Skl 8077/42 Gkdos. War Diary, reference files "British Landing at St. Nazaire on 28 Mar. 1942".

II. Effective 15 Apr. 1942 Mine Layer Groups North and West will be dissolved. The mine layers of both groups will be combined under the command of the Commander, Mine Layers, who will be responsible to the Fleet Command. For each mission special orders will be issued with regard to the operational subordination of the force or of the individual vessels.

III. Due to the present shipyard situation it will not be possible during the winter of 1942/43 to build the 12 merchant vessels specially equipped to serve as icebreakers as requested by Group North. Ships equipped with Maier bows now under construction are unsuitable for icebreakers. As in the past, ships of the Ganter class can be used for light icebreaker duties only, even if their outer hull is further reinforced. However, the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff predicts that by next winter conditions will have improved considerably. At that time the Navy will have 4 large icebreakers, the CASTOR, EISBAER, EISVOGEL, and the POLLUX. It is planned to build 2 more vessels of the EISVOGEL type. The 12 tugboats being built in Finland with reinforcements and Kort tube will also help to ease the situation, because tests have shown that with a speed of 7 knots these tugboats are easily capable of breaking ice 20 to 22 cm. thick.

In addition the Ministry of Transportation plans to build 2 heavy icebreakers.

The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has informed Group North, Naval Station, North Sea, and Naval Station, Baltic Sea accordingly.

Situation 7 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

According to an intelligence report U.S. maritime circles estimate that by the middle of March the number of U.S. troops shipped overseas amounted to the following:

New Zealand	14,000 men
Iceland	11,000 men
Ulster	16,000 men
West Indies	8,000 men
Puerto Rico	18,000 men
Panama	26,000 men
Hawaii	24,000 men
Alaska	13,000 men
South Pacific	30,000 men

That is a total of about 160,000 men. In addition about 24,000 men were ready for shipment overseas by the middle of March. The reason given for this low figure is that troop transports must not interfere with the transport of supplies. Starting in April troops will probably be shipped overseas in larger numbers.

This same report reveals that convoy escorts were first organized in March. So far fighter escort bases have been set up in Newfoundland, Norfolk, Key West, Nassau, San Juan in Puerto Rico, Colon, Antigua, and Port-of-Spain. It is planned to send 1 squadron to Greenland in April. All convoy assembly points are still in a state of preparation and are planned as follows: No. 1, the Chesapeake Bay with Norfolk as port of departure; No. 2, Mobile for ships leaving from Gulf ports, with reconnaissance plane base Pensacola; No. 3, San Juan in Puerto Rico; No. 4, Halifax for traffic to Europe. On the Trinidad-Capetown run it is planned to replace patrol duty with direct escort service. Convoy No. 1 starting from Baltimore sailed from Norfolk on 12 Mar. and was escorted by 2 or 3 cruisers and several destroyers. It consisted of 38 or 39 ships. However at least 1 of the cruisers will leave the convoy off San Juan and turn back. A second convoy scheduled to follow the route around the Cape is in the process of being assembled and will depart the second week in April.

The arming of merchant vessels is making only slow headway. Plans for the use of aircraft carrier escorts can hardly be expected to materialize before the end of this year.

Instead of trying to reach maximum fighting strength at once, the Army and Air Force are laying the broad foundations for the organization of very large forces which will be ready in 1943. Thus far all units have therefore served more or less as skeleton organizations with the exception of the expeditionary force to be dispatched immediately. This system is being criticized severely in many circles.

An intelligence report from Spain claims that a letter from the Brit-

ish Naval Attache in Lisbon to the Naval Attache in Madrid was intercepted. This letter supposedly reveals that the ARK ROYAL and the PRINCE OF WALES are in reality renamed ships, bearing the name of 2 ships of the same type which were sunk.

It is very unlikely that this information is correct.

Indian Ocean:

Bombay sent out an SOS on behalf of a steamer about 250 miles west of Bombay which had been attacked by a submarine.

2. Own Situation:

Radiogram 2101 was sent to the RIO GRANDE ordering her to make for point "Rosskaefer" under cover of darkness and to proceed through neutral waters to the port of Bordeaux.

In connection with the announcement of Japanese successes at Colombo on 5 Apr. (see War Diary 6 Apr.), where the Japanese Navy had suspected the presence of British battleships, the Naval Attache, Tokyo transmits a Japanese request to the Naval Staff, asking for immediate information on the likely location of British battleships.

The Naval Staff had to reply that there is no exact information on the location of the battleships in the Indian Ocean.

Information on the enemy situation and Japanese successes on 5 and 6 Apr. was sent out through Radiogram 0211.

II. Situation West Area:

The Commanding Admiral, France reports on the hawser boom supported by cylindrical floats off St. Nazaire. For copy see 1/Skl 8068/42 Gkdos., War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIb.

Radiogram 2101 was sent to Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines informing them of the instructions sent to the RIO GRANDE. Otherwise nothing to report.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

At 1400 the POTSDAM-GNEISENAU convoy left the Elbe River. Other convoy traffic is proceeding according to schedule.

It is believed that aerial mines were dropped in the waters west of Heligoland.

During March 1,274 ships with a total of 2,566,017 GRT moved between German and German-occupied harbors. 1,011 of these vessels amounting to 2,177,136 GRT were escorted by warships. In spite of the unfavorable weather conditions (bad weather, ice difficulties) and in spite of the fact that the forces participating were heavily taxed

and often had to be withdrawn for naval tasks (mining operations, escort of warships, guarding against break-through attempts of the blockade-runners in Goeteborg), it was possible to accomplish this task with only negligible losses of merchant vessels.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

On 6 Apr. radio intelligence located a British vessel 70 miles northwest of the North Cape. An enemy air attack against harbor patrol vessels off Haugsholm resulted in minor casualties among the crews. During an enemy air attack on a northern convoy a harbor patrol vessel shot down one of the attacking planes. Off Stadland enemy planes attacked the escort of the tanker ORION without results. At noon and in the afternoon of 6 Apr. enemy planes were active in the Trondheim, Lister, and Stavanger areas.

The Commanding Admiral, Norway requests that in view of the considerable increase in the amount of paperwork involved, the exchange of practical war experience among the escort units should not be carried out in the manner proposed by the Naval Staff. He suggests that the Naval Staff make a compilation of these reports instead. The admirals in charge of the Norwegian coastal areas exchange the experiences gained. (See Telegram 1830.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

10 patrol vessels are waiting in the Skagerrak to escort the POTSDAM-GNEISENAU convoy. The patrol line off the Swedish coast is guarded by 6 boats.

Naval Station, Baltic Sea plans to lift shipping restrictions in the waters west of Gjedser as of 9 Apr. Orders have been issued to station patrol vessels along the mine-free routes and to mark the latter by buoys. (See Telegram 1826.)

Tytersaari is being reinforced as planned.

The situation in the Gulf of Finland will make it necessary to carry out the first mining operation from Finland. Group North plans therefore immediately to assign 10 coastal motor ships as mine carriers and mine layers to the Commander, Mine Sweepers, Baltic Sea. (See Telegram 1655.)

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

According to radio monitoring a tanker was torpedoed in the waters northeast of Cape Hatteras. Signals were also intercepted asking all U.S. warships to come to the aid of the British steamer ST. ZENO, which was being attacked. Presumably a submarine trap.

An SOS was intercepted from U.S. steamer ALCOA CARRIER (5,588 GRT), south of Curacao in the West Indies.

For protective measures for U.S. convoys see Enemy Situation in Foreign Waters.

In the Central Atlantic according to the Naval Intelligence Division, part of the ship traffic to the British Isles has lately been re-routed from the West Atlantic back to the north-south route.

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "754" reports that she sank a tug and 3 lighters with gunfire in the vicinity of Cape Charles, as well as 2 steamers (7,000 GRT and 5,000 GRT) and 1 tanker (tonnage unknown).

Submarine U "571" states that she sank the Norwegian steamer KOLL (10,044 GRT) 300 miles east of Cape Hatteras on 6 Apr.

South of Sable Island submarine U "202" succeeded in sinking a steamer of 6,000 GRT.

The German Naval Command, Italy reveals that on 7 Apr. a German submarine may possibly have torpedoed the British hospital ship SOMERSET-SHIRE in the Eastern Mediterranean. In agreement with the Italian Navy it is planned to keep this torpedo attack a secret and if necessary to deny it.

For additional information on submarine warfare see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV. Marginal note: Special reference is made to submarine operations in the Arctic Ocean!

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Air reconnaissance to locate convoy PQ 14 was again unsuccessful.

During the night 51 planes attacked Grimsby.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

272 planes carried out very successful attacks against the harbor and supply dumps of Valletta, torpedo stowages at Cala Francese, airfields at Lucca, Halfar, and Venezia. It is claimed that the cruiser in dock was hit again amidships by a SC 500 bomb. The planes ran into heavy although less accurate anti-aircraft fire. North of Malta 4 SC 250 bombs were dropped on a submarine. Oil appeared on the sea. A freighter in the harbor of Gozo was strafed and damaged. During the night of 6 Apr. 10 Ju 88's and 6 He 111's attacked the floating dock, the railroad station, and anti-aircraft batteries at Alexandria. 9 planes succeeded in getting through and dropped bombs on the floating dock from a height of 1,200 to 1,700 meters. The glaring searchlights made it impossible to determine the results. At 0347 the crew of 1 plane observed a heavy explosion and fire on the dock. Nevertheless photographic reconnaissance of 7 Apr. shows no signs of damage on the dock. Strong forces of the Naval Air Command,

African Coast supported Army operations. At 0830 air reconnaissance observed a submarine sink a large steamer north of Sidi Barrani.

3. Eastern Front:

On 5 Apr. extensive aerial operations were carried out aided by favorable weather.

4. Special Items:

a. In accordance with a Naval Staff request the Commander in Chief, Air ordered that mine-sweeping planes which will be coming off the production line between the middle of April and the beginning of May are to be distributed as follows:

The first 4 to the 4th Air Force, the next 4 to the 3rd Air Force, the last 2 to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South.

b. In agreement with the Naval High Command and effective immediately, the Commander, Naval Air is to come under the command of the 3rd Air Force in every respect. The following tasks will have to be carried out by the 3rd Air Force:

(1) Execution of reconnaissance and combat duties over the North Sea.

(2) Closest cooperation with PT boat units of the Navy.

(3) Escort and reconnaissance duties in connection with operations of naval surface forces are to take precedence over combat duties.

Coastal Air Squadron 1/706 is to come under the command of the 5th Air Force. Its tasks will continue unchanged.

Effec ive 10 Apr. the line dividing the area of operation of the 5th and the 3rd Air Forces will run between Hanstholm and Newcastle.

For copy of above instructions by the Air Force Operations Staff see 1/Skl 8135/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

In principle these instructions are in accord with the proposal submitted by the Commander in Chief, Navy to the Commander in Chief, Air in his letter (1/Skl 3447/42 Gkdos.) of 18 Feb. 1942. For copy see War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

British prisoners of war state that on 6 Apr. the British destroyer HAVOC (H "43") was first unsuccessfully attacked by an Italian submarine. In sheering off, she came too close to what she believed to be a mine field, turned shoreward, and ran aground. Believing that it would be impossible to get her afloat again, the captain ordered the crew to blow up the vessel. (See Telegram 1915.)

Photographic reconnaissance showed no changes in Valletta harbor. On 6 Apr. the following vessels were sighted in Port Said: 1 destroyer, 4 submarines, 8 smaller auxiliary vessels, 1 tanker, 34 steamers, totaling about 139,000 GRT; as well as 7 barges; in Haifa on 6 Apr. 4 tankers, 2 steamers, and 3 smaller warships; in Beirut 10 steamers of approximately 30,000 GRT, 1 destroyer, and 1 smaller warship.

At 1337 on 7 Apr. radio monitoring intercepted an SOS message from the British hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE 80 miles off Sollum on a 61° bearing, reporting that she had been hit by a torpedo. 2 hours previous a German submarine reported sighting the steamer on a zigzag course.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 6 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi. No military installations were damaged. On 6 Apr. an enemy submarine sank the Italian steamer NINETTO (5,524 GRT) off Cape dell' Armi.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The steamer UNA arrived in Tripoli, escorted by the first group of the 6th Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla, as did steamer ATLAS, escorted by the second group of the 6th Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla. All other traffic proceeded according to plan.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

On 6 Apr. a British reconnaissance plane was shot down near Gavdhos. On 6 Apr. the Turkish supply ship DUMLUPINAR departed from Piraeus bound for Istanbul.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance revealed nothing new.

Own Situation:

Naval barge LEX completed her first mining operation according to plans and has left Skadovsk for her second operation.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

The Naval Attaches in Tokyo and Bangkok report that Japanese troops occupied Bassein on 23 Mar. In the Sittang and Irrawaddy valleys the enemy is slowly withdrawing toward the north. The enemy air force has received reinforcements from India and from the Near East. Long-range U.S. bombers attacked Port Blair on the Andaman Islands and Japanese ships in the Bay of Bengal. Both attaches maintain that the Japanese made no landing at Akyab. For the time being the Japanese are postponing their plan to transfer their headquarters from Saigon to Singapore because U.S. submarines are endangering sea communications. In the Philippines the first signs of a break in morale (deserters) are appearing among the enemy troops on Bataan. The Japa-

nese are increasing their efforts to combat U.S. submarines operating from bases in the unoccupied area. The main battle line on Bataan was broken through in two places.

The Vichy Telegraphic Service reports more Japanese landings in the Solomons.

On 6 Apr. radio monitoring intercepted distress signals from 3 steamers sunk by a Japanese cruiser off Madras and in the Bay of Bengal.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Enemy planes attacked Saki airfield in the Crimea. In the area of Slavyansk enemy troop concentrations were broken up. German troops west of Balakleya and west of Volchansk succeeded in advancing.

Central Army Group:

South of Byelev, in the Zhizdra Valley, and north of Lake Lyudinovo there was brisk combat activity. Fomina which had been captured on 6 Apr. was again lost to the enemy. Northwest of Fomina German divisions advanced toward Medvyenka. The encirclement of Vyazma is making progress. The fighting at Gzhatsk, Rzhev, and on the Smolensk-Byelev road is continuing.

Northern Army Group:

The enemy launched an unsuccessful attack in the Pola Valley. The Von Seydlitz Group, aided by effective air support, continued to advance eastward in the direction of the Lovat River. Between Staraya Russa and Lake Ilmen the enemy appears to be withdrawing to his Polist River positions. Enemy attacks west of Yamno were repulsed. North of the point of penetration the German attack launched against the encircled enemy is making good progress. The enemy is attacking the railroad position between Maluksa and Soltsy both from the north and the south. An enemy attack southwest of Oranienbaum was repulsed. New enemy posts were detected on the ice north of Tytersaari.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Situation unchanged.

3. North Africa:

An enemy reconnaissance unit and forces of the 1st Panzer Division employed in the outpost area withdrew to the line Bir Hakeim-Mteifel el Chebir and in the area west of Ain el Gazala. In the El Adem-Sidi Rezegh area additional enemy troop concentrations were observed, apparently one division.

By 7 Apr. the Panzer Army had succeeded in capturing the line Tengeder-Segnali South-Segnali North-Temrad, and the area west of Ain el Gazala without serious fighting. The area seized was mopped up according to plan.

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8 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

Franco-American relations are obviously less strained at present. For details see Political Review No. 81, Paragraph 1. It may become necessary in the near future for Germany to take up a definite stand toward France.

Great Britain:

According to Reuter, Great Britain and Italy reached an agreement on 7 Apr. concerning the exchange of 66 sick and wounded British soldiers for 250 Italians on hospital ships in Smyrna. Preparations for the exchange will be made by the Red Cross in cooperation with the Turkish Government. Separate negotiations are in progress for the evacuation of noncombatants from Italian East Africa.

India:

The Executive Committee of the Congress Party is supposed to have decided not to recommend acceptance of the British proposals. Due to the fact that agreement was not reached on all points, the proposal as a whole should be rejected. Independent of the question of the Indian constitution Nehru and the Vice-President of the Hindu group stressed their sympathy for the democracies, i.e., the U.S., Great Britain, China, and Russia (!) and made it clear that they are definitely opposed to Japanese aspirations. Gandhi, however, as a matter of principle condemned military resistance of any kind against Japan and voiced the opinion that India could successfully defend herself against a Japanese invasion only by peaceful means.

U.S.S.R.:

Ambassador Tatekawa, back from Moscow, declared that Russia's ability to resist should not be underestimated. In the course of the past 3 months she has been able to recover considerable strength, and she is making careful preparations for operations in the spring. For details see Political Review No. 81, Paragraph 4.

Albania:

An increasing number of reports received in Bulgaria indicate that trouble is imminent in Albania.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Staff decided that for the time being the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla is to remain in the West Area. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division is to investigate the possibilities of obtaining replacements for the submarine and torpedo boat training school at Flensburg. If possible the torpedo boats of the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotillas still in German waters are to be used for this purpose.

The necessary instructions were sent to Group West, with copies to Commanding Admiral, Submarines; Group North; Commander, Torpedo Boats; 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla; and the Inspectorate of Torpedoes. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division is requested to have the necessary measures carried out. However, if possible, the activation of the 4th Torpedo Boat Flotilla is not to be delayed as the result of the continued commitment of the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla in the Western Area. Copies of the instructions to the Naval Ordnance Division, Torpedo Branch and the Submarine Division of the Naval Staff.

II. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff discussed Field Marshal List's report on northern Norway and the conclusions drawn by the Armed Forces High Command. Copy for Naval Staff according to 1/Skl 84781 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

III. Report by the Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff on the distribution of radar equipment along the Channel and Atlantic coasts. The Chief of Naval Staff decided in favor of the proposal, earmarking 4 new sets for the Crimea, La Pallice, and Den Helder as soon as they will be ready for installation.

IV. On 3 Apr., according to information of the Naval Liaison Officer to the Army High Command, the Chief of the Army General Staff expressed the following viewpoint with regard to the Suez memorandum of the Naval Staff:

1. Operation "Kaukasus" remains of vital importance to us due to the fuel oil situation. In his opinion this area is as important to Germany as Silesia is to Prussia. The Greater German Reich cannot function in the long run unless we gain possession of this area. The oil question should be of particular interest to the German and Italian Navies, since the Army could really get along on the amount of fuel oil now available, provided no further offensives are planned.

2. With respect to the Suez operation it is feared that the forces available may not be strong enough to cope with enemy counter-offensives from the Near East and the Red Sea areas. The Chief of the Army General Staff believes that these could be countered only with a pincer movement from the Caucasus. However an operation via the Caucasus is no longer possible this year. An operation across Turkish territory is not considered feasible, since Turkey is not likely to join the Axis powers until the final victory of the Axis appears imminent.

3. If this operation is postponed until about 1943, the enemy will have had time, particularly with the aid of the U.S., to strengthen his defenses in Egypt to such an extent that the Suez operation will require a much larger force than the Naval Staff memorandum estimates. This would make the supply problem much more difficult.

4. With respect to the seizure of Malta, the Chief of the Army General Staff said that the Italians are probably hesitating because they fear that after the capture of Malta a large part of the German air forces in Italy will be recalled. This would not be to their advantage. He also believes that the occupation of Malta is one of the prerequisites for the successful outcome of the Suez operation.

Re 1: It should be considered whether a Suez-Egypt advance may not be after all the quickest and best solution of the entire problem.

A-5599

Re 2: Concern about possible enemy counterattacks from the Near East-Red Sea area is the more justified the longer we postpone the operation. Once Suez is captured the Turkish question is solved.

Re 3: Joint German-Japanese warfare in the Indian Ocean ought to be able to prevent the reinforcement of enemy defenses in Egypt until 1943.

Re 4: Independently of the Suez plans Malta must be captured very soon in order to prevent this base at all cost from being rebuilt.

V. Fuehrer Directive No. 41 of 5 Apr. contains plans for future military operations in the Eastern Area. It stresses that these plans must be kept particularly secret and their knowledge must be limited to the smallest possible circle. It contains the following instructions with regard to the Navy:

The main task in the Black Sea is to utilize all possible fighting and escort forces and all available shipping space for transporting supplies for the Army and the Air Force.

The light naval forces which will be transferred to the Black Sea to fight the unimpaired Black Sea Fleet should be ready for action in the very near future. Russian naval forces are to be confined to the inner Gulf of Finland, thus making the Baltic Sea safe for German shipping.

Extracts from OKW/WFSt. 55 016/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Files "Barbarossa".

Special Items:

I. During another conference the Chief, Naval Staff handed Admiral Nomura a detailed transcript of the conference which took place on 27 Mar. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Major topics of today's discussion were the following:

Operational areas in the Indian Ocean for German auxiliary cruisers and Japanese submarines and auxiliary cruisers were defined. Admiral Nomura was approached with the idea of getting the Japanese Navy to send naval forces into the northern and northwestern part of the Indian Ocean. Minutes of the conference in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

II. The Inspectorate of Naval Artillery has asked for a heavy cruiser or battleship for the gun captain training course. No practical training in this field has been given since the beginning of the war. The Fleet suggested the LUETZOW, from 4 May to 13 Jun. Thereby the request from the Inspectorate of Naval Artillery that the EMDEN should be made available for the Secondary Armament Gun Captain Training Course for the period of 11 May to 13 Jun. is cancelled.

Naval Staff cannot agree with the Fleet's proposal, because it is intended to commit the LUETZOW as soon as she is fully ready for action. If her guns were used for firing practice previously, her gun barrels would become worn and much time would be lost in replacing the tubes. Naval Staff agrees that the EMDEN be made available, with the proviso that she may be used for brief operations in the Baltic

Sea, under certain circumstances.

Further action is to be taken by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

III. On 4 Apr. in accordance with the Fuehrer's directive the Organization and Mobilization Branch, Naval Staff ordered the formation of a naval fortress brigade. Strength: 1 brigade staff, 2 regimental staffs, 5 infantry battalions, each composed of 2 light, 1 heavy, and 1 combat engineer company; in addition 1 reinforced infantry company, 1 combat engineer company, three 7.5 cm. batteries, 2 light field howitzer batteries, 2 anti-tank companies, 1/3 ambulance platoon, and 1/3 motor ambulance train. Plans call for a total strength of 168 officers, 973 noncommissioned officers, and 4,990 men.

Personnel will be made available as follows:

Officers, by reducing the personnel of coastal artillery units and by cancelling plans for the formation of additional units.

Noncommissioned officers and men, by taking 10% of the reserve personnel of the batteries in Germany and the occupied areas in the west.

Group North will be responsible for the organization of the brigade. The brigade should be stationed as far west as possible.

IV. On the SCHARNHORST part of the restoration of the fire-control system consists in the re-laying of cables. With reference to this subject, the Kiel shipyard reports that it will not be possible to fully restore the system to its original condition within the period the ship is to spend in dock, i.e., by 16 July as was originally planned. In an intermediate stage the final installation of the cables will be prepared to the greatest possible extent without endangering the deadline. (See Telegrams 1740 and 1800.) Thus the battleship will not be ready to put to sea prior to the middle of July.

V. For Fuehrer decree of 21 Mar. concerning the conduct of leading personalities in the Government, the Party, and the Armed Forces see 1/Skl 12506 geh. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

Situation 8 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an announcement of the U.S. Navy Department destroyer KEARNEY has been repaired and is in operation again. The destroyer was torpedoed in the Atlantic on 17 Oct. 1941. Repairs took 5½ months. According to an intelligence report of 21 Mar. the following vessels from Norfolk arrived in Belfast: 1 U.S. transport carrying about 1,000 men; 2 tankers with fuel oil and aviation fuel; 1 ship carrying munition; 1 steamer carrying food; and 2 submarines. Submarines SARGO and SCULPEN are to take the place of British submarines being transferred to the Mediterranean. They are to operate against Norway from a base in Scotland. 2 other U.S. submarines

were transferred from Norfolk to Iceland. 1 cruiser and 5 destroyers arrived in Belfast together with these ships, evidently acting as escorts of this convoy. The cruiser proceeded to Glasgow. 3 days later the destroyers put to sea again accompanying transport ships of an earlier convoy on their return voyage to the U.S.

According to an intelligence report of 30 Mar. from Spain, there are American as well as British naval forces in the Azores area; likewise steamers, tankers, and repair ships are there, flying the American flag. About the end of March or the beginning of April 2 American motorized divisions with all equipment and armored cars, including 1 company of marines, were supposed to embark for Great Britain (not Northern Ireland) to be stationed in Scotland and Southern England. Half of the way the convoy will be escorted by American naval forces, and for the rest of the voyage by British warships.

1 cruiser equipped with catapult, 5 destroyers, and 2 torpedo boats of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet have been detailed to patrol duty in the middle Atlantic as far as the African coast, with Bermuda as their base. The same report claims that U.S. war material is sent to Great Britain as Red Cross shipments. A part of the cargo is transferred to British ships in Madeira.

South Atlantic:

According to radio monitoring Montevideo informed South Atlantic bases on 14 Mar. that the German steamer BUENOS AIRES is about to put to sea. It is possible that this is a former German ship, now sailing under the name of BUENOS AIRES.

Indian Ocean:

On 8 Apr. radio monitoring intercepted a report from Bombay that a task force, apparently Japanese, composed of 3 battleships and 1 aircraft carrier had been sighted. The carrier was steering a course of 350° and the planes were taking off.

2. Own Situation:

The DOGGERBANK has received code word "Kairo" by Radiogram 2036 for the mining operation off Cape Agulhas.

Naval Staff believes that ship "28" will receive about 500 cu.m. of fuel oil from the SCHLIEMANN between 11 and 14 Apr. After supplying ship "28" the SCHLIEMANN is to proceed to a waiting area, the center of which is located 3° further south than formerly. In this connection instructions are sent to ship "28" by Radiogram 2243 that she is to report only if the rendezvous with the SCHLIEMANN does not take place or if important changes occur. Radiogram 1902 was sent with instructions for the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN.

All ships in foreign waters were informed of positions and camouflage of the MUENSTERLAND and the PORTLAND by Radiogram 0455; special mission "Kairo" of DOGGERBANK by Radiogram 0613; positions of French and Swedish ships and enemy situation by Radiograms 1939 and 2021.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to information from the embassy in Dublin, a British fuel tanker of 14,000 GRT arrived in Dublin harbor on 27 Mar.

2. Own Situation:

1 ground mine was swept in Quiberon Bay.

German Naval Command, Italy informed Air Command, Atlantic Coast and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines of the position of Italian ships VULCANIA and SATURNIA (group Alfa) as of 1200 (off Casablanca). See Telegram 2125.

Channel Coast:

Nothing to report.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

The northbound GNEISENAU-POTSDAM convoy arrived in Oslo at 1400. Destroyer Z "28" and torpedo boat "7" are on their way to northern Norway.

At 1530 four-motored enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked a southbound convoy consisting of 6 steamers. It is believed that 1 bomber was shot down by an escort vessel. At 1900 1 enemy plane flying at low altitude was shot down by battery Rantum northwest of Westerland. The steamer ARA hit a mine off Terschelling. Attempts will be made to tow her in. In the evening starting at 2200 enemy planes were active over the coastal area of northern Germany. Hamburg was under attack. Nuisance raids against Bremen and Wilhelmshaven.

2. Norway:

In connection with the planned submarine barrage between Rotvaer and Baroe for the protection of heavy naval forces in the Bogen Bay the Commanding Admiral, Norway had requested additional subchasers. Due to the limited forces available, the Naval Staff had to turn down this request. It is likewise impossible to withdraw vessels from the Norway area to guard the barrage permanently. The Commanding Admiral, Norway therefore asks Group North to examine the matter once more and then to decide whether the barrage is to be installed regardless of the fact that the subchasers requested cannot be made available, and in spite of the negative attitude of the Fleet. (See Telegram 1901.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

A spokesman of the Swedish Government confirmed the arrival

of the NEWTON and the LIND in British ports. According to an intelligence report from Goeteborg the DICTO is getting ready to sail. According to statements made by survivors of the tanker STORSTEN, the vessel hit a mine, 57° 18' N, 08° 15' E; later she was hit by a bomb. The ship had been fully loaded since Oct. 1941. It is believed that 1 of the 3 life boats escaped toward the west. 8 of the survivors who landed in the Josing Fjord succeeded in escaping.

According to statements of Russian prisoners of war who were captured on Lavansaari, there are no heavy weapons on the island. The morale among the men is low.

2. Own Situation:

4 patrol boats are guarding the patrol line off the Swedish coast.

During the night of 8 Apr. there were enemy nuisance raids on Kiel and Luebeck. Aerial mines are suspected in the Esbjerg area.

On 7 Apr., following earlier smaller attacks the entire garrison of Seiskaari consisting of a Red ski regiment and a naval battalion attacked Tytersaari along a line running northwest to east. 2 companies succeeded in breaking through and were surrounded on the island. Otherwise the attack was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. The commanding officer on Tytersaari is the commander of Naval Artillery Detachment 531, Commander von Beckerath.

V. Merchant Shipping:

Maritime Shipping Department of the Ministry of Transportation has made the claim (see War Diary 14 Mar.) that if the ships requisitioned for Armed Forces supply purposes were returned, it would be in a position to provide the ships needed for supplies according to schedule; at the same time a considerable saving in shipping space could be effected through the proper assignment of the vessels. Consequently Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transportation Branch feels compelled to put this to the test and to release the vessels requisitioned for carrying Armed Forces supplies.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

The Admirality announced the loss of submarine TEMPEST. According to information from Italy important ships are expected to arrive in the Strait of Gibraltar judging from the lively mine-sweeping activity. The same source reports that a British transport ship of more than 3,000 GRT arrived in Ponta Delgada on 6 Apr., probably on her way to Africa.

Radio monitoring intercepted a submarine warning for the area 130 miles southeast of Nantucket Island and a message from the American tanker CONNECTICUT (8,864 GRT) reporting that a suspicious vessel was pursuing her 40 miles northwest of Port-of-Spain.

Naval Attache, Buenos Aires reports that the U.S. plans to use dirigibles for patrol duty along the East Coast.

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "123" (Commander: Lt. Hardegen) reports sinking a submarine trap, steamer CAROLYN (3,209 GRT) on 27 Mar. After scoring torpedo hit, the submarine was suddenly attacked by depth charges and gunfire. She fired a second torpedo which sank the steamer. The submarine also sank the tanker MUSKOGEE (7,034 GRT) and damaged another tanker severely by gunfire. Presumably the tanker went down, a fact which could not be ascertained because subchasers attacked the submarine with depth charges.

On 8 Apr. submarine U "84" sank the steamer NEMANJA (5,226 GRT). North of the Mona Passage submarine U "154" sank a 4,000 GRT steamer on 4 Apr. and a 6,000 GRT steamer on 5 Apr. both of which may be considered auxiliary cruisers or transport ships.

Submarine U "702" on a mission against blockade-runners is reported overdue at her Heligoland base. Submarine U "585" on a mission against PQ 13 is reported missing.

Detailed report on the situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

German submarine successes will very likely cause shipping in North American waters to be re-routed to Quebec and Montreal when that waterway is opened. Naval intelligence is therefore making plans to put an agent ashore on the Canadian coast at the end of April in order to gather information which is to include data on harbor traffic of St. John (Fundy Bay) and shipping originating in the Great Lakes (assembly of convoys). Halifax and Sydney (Nova Scotia) are also to be watched. For this operation the Commanding Admiral, Submarines will make a submarine available (codeword: Grete). He believes that landing conditions and the phase of the moon will be most favorable between 20 and 26 Apr.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the night of 8 Apr. 3 groups of enemy planes totaling about 50 to 60 planes made flights over the Reich area. First group: Area Baltic Sea entrances; second group: Single flights into Poland and Silesia; third group: Single flights to Landshut, Donauwoerth, Reutlingen. The attacks were concentrated on Hamburg.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Morning reconnaissance over Valletta revealed that the cruiser has left the dock and has steam up.

> According to Air Force information so far, the cruiser was hit by not less than 6 bombs, among them several SC 500's.

On 7 Apr. Malta suffered its heaviest attack so far. Of a total of 400 tons of high-explosive bombs, 280 tons fell on Valletta alone, 28 of which were of the heaviest caliber.

On 8 Apr. the undocked cruiser was attacked continuously from the air. 2 bomb hits were observed very close to the cruiser's side. Another target for continuous attacks was a destroyer apparently ready to sail. Much damage was done to the harbor and dock installations.

During the night of 7 Apr. the X Air Corps made another attack on the QUEEN ELIZABETH in the floating dock at Alexandria. Due to the glaring searchlights it was not possible to note the results. 1 vessel, probably the MEDWAY or the WOOLWICH,was hit by a PC 1,000 bomb; one PC 1,000 hit and 1 direct SC 500 hit were scored on what seemed to be a cruiser. Owing to strong enemy fighter defense it was not possible to carry out the photographic reconnaissance mission in the morning of 8 Apr. Two He 111's are missing.

Strong forces of the Air Command, African Coast continued to support the operations of the German Africa Corps. At noontime fighter bombers attacked a convoy of 4 steamers and 4 destroyers entering Tobruk harbor. No hits were observed; 3 enemy planes were shot down, 3 German planes were lost.

The persistent and stubborn enemy air defense is worth mentioning.

3. Eastern Front:

On 6 and 7 Apr. the German Air Force was very active.

On 6 Apr. 5 German and 60 enemy planes were shot down; on 7 Apr. the ratio was 9 German to 14 enemy planes. Air reconnaissance against PQ 14 failed to bring results.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

The Admiralty announced that the destroyer HAVOC was lost after being shipwrecked off the Tunisian coast. The EAGLE docked in Gibraltar. A cruiser of the AURORA class accompanied by 1 destroyer is expected to leave Valletta harbor during the night of 8 Apr. About 50 miles off Tobruk German air reconnaissance sighted a westbound convoy consisting of 4 steamers and 4 destroyers. For the attack on this convoy see Aerial Warfare. North of the Gulf of Sollum a destroyer was reported proceeding westward at high speed. Submarines were sighted off Cape Passero, south of Gela (Sicily), off Cape Dukato (on the island of Leukas), and southeast of Naples. Photographic reconnaissance of 7 Apr. revealed 1 destroyer and 3 steamers in the Bay of Famagusta in the Eastern Mediterranean.

2. Own Situation:

Because of the weather the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla had to cancel the mine-laying operation off Malta which had been planned for the night of 8 Apr.

3. Situation Italy:

Enemy planes attacked Benghazi during the night of 7 Apr. No damage was done to military installations.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Owing to slight damages suffered when she collided with a destroyer escort, steamer ANKARA en route to Benghazi returned to Messina for a period of 24 hours. Steamer ATLAS left Tripoli to continue her voyage to Benghazi. Other transports are proceeding according to plans. Total amount transported by the 6th Transport Group: 1,013 men; 17,450 tons of supplies for the Armed Forces; 5,879 tons of fuel.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

A copy of Captain Kirschbach's report (Armed Forces Operations Staff, Quartermaster Division) about his trip to the Commanding Admiral, Southern Greece, and the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Balkans, which was made available to the Naval Staff, Operations Division by the Naval Liaison Officer to the Armed Forces High Command, was transmitted to Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division and to the Chief of the Naval Ordnance Division. For copy see 1/Skl 8181/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

Otherwise nothing to report.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

1 large steamer under heavy escort approached the Strait of Kerch from the south.

Own Situation:

Unchanged.

IX. Situation East Asia:

Nothing to report.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

The anticipated enemy attack against the Feodosiya front was evidently nipped in the bud by smashing the enemy's preparations. All Army Group sectors reported that the day had been relatively quiet.

Central Army Group:

South of Byelev and in the Zhizdra Valley enemy attacks were repulsed. Northeast of Volkhov German outposts faced by su-

perior enemy troops had to be withdrawn. Northeast of Spas-Demensk German attacks continued. Northwest of Yukhnov the enemy made an unsuccessful attack, while a point of penetration north of that area was sealed off by German troops. Northwest of Gzhatsk a German advanced position was withdrawn. Near Boronino, northwest of Rzhev, an enemy penetration was eliminated by a German counterattack. Forces of the Esebeck group advancing toward Byeloi established contact with German troops at Byeloi and south of the city.

Northern Army Group:

West of Kholm the supply road was unsuccessfully attacked by the enemy. South of Demyansk 600 enemy parachute troops tried in vain to break out. The advance of the Von Seydlitz group was halted because weather conditions kept planes on the ground. South of Maluksa the enemy attacked the flanks trying to broaden the point of penetration there.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

There was local fighting at various front sectors. The situation remains unchanged.

3. North Africa:

A strong enemy reconnaissance thrust southeast of Tmimi was repulsed. During the night of 7 Apr. enemy planes attacked the airfield at Derna.

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9 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Norway:

According to a Swedish press report all clergymen in Norway have resigned by now.

Great Britain:

According to various radio and agency reports prospects for a successful settlement of the Indian question appear somewhat brighter as a result of Johnson's intervention, and it is hoped that India will join the Allied front. It seems that Nehru is making every effort to bring about an agreement and that the American intervention was in fact his idea. According to Swiss reports from London, Great Britain seems to be ready to make very far-reaching concessions to India.

Portugal:

South African troop concentrations along the Portuguese East African border give cause for fears that Portuguese East Africa may be invaded within the next few days.

Arabia:

According to information from Ankara the Italian Ambassador in Yemen was forced to leave the country on 7 Apr. Thus not a single Axis representative remains in the Arab countries.

U.S.A.:

Public and economic life is speedily adjusting itself to war conditions. For details see Political Review No. 82, Paragraph 7. The U.S. and Mexico are about to sign a trade agreement.

Japan:

A Japanese spokesman in Nanking declared that Japan will be able to concentrate on her problems in southern China, because there is no threat from the north. He said that Stalin would never attack Japan in the north merely for the sake of obliging the Allies; furthermore, the Russo-German war keeps him fully occupied.

The Chief, Naval Staff is not in Berlin. He is on an inspection tour in western France.

Situation 9 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

South Atlantic:

The DIOMEDE arrived in Montevideo on 6 Apr.

Indian Ocean:

Radio monitoring intercepted a QQ signal sent by a ship 300 miles northeast of New Amsterdam. Thus it seems that single ships are still using the Cape of Good Hope-Australia route.

Pacific Ocean:

A press report reveals that heavy U.S. bombers are being flown from the U.S. directly to China and Russia.

2. Own Situation:

At 1345 blockade-runner RIO GRANDE was met by a German plane escort in quadrant BF 9488.

Instructions were sent to the MUENSTERLAND via Radiogram 1113 to proceed so as not to cross north of 35° S prior to 16 Apr. in order to avoid meeting motorship PORTLAND.

The Italian "Alfa" group is expected to arrive in St. Vincent (Cape Verdes) on 11 Apr.

Radiogram 1151 was sent to all ships in foreign waters with information about the distribution of enemy shipping space in the various areas according to the list made up by the Naval Intelligence Division (see War Diary 2 Apr.).

Information on the enemy situation via Radiogram 2134.

II. Situation West Area

1. Atlantic Coast:

At 2100 escort vessels met blockade-runner RIO GRANDE off Bayonne.

Information was sent to Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines about the Italian blockade-runner FUSIJAMA which ought to arrive in Irun on 20 Apr. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I k 732/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

2. Channel Coast:

The 3rd Air Force submitted a request to the Air Force Operations Staff to lift restrictions for the laying of aerial mines along the convoy routes between 53° 15' N and 53° 45' N, wherever the depth of the water is suitable for ground mines. The mines are to be layed by day only, so as to guarantee accurate placement. Provided the Commander, Torpedo Boats agrees, Group West has no objections, because these waters are no longer frequented by PT boats. (See Telegram 1235.)

In this connection the Commander, Torpedo Boats requests that no LM Gruen should be laid between 53° 15' N and 53° 33' N (buoy H 3) because the depth of the water there makes this area particularly well-suited for PT boat mine-laying operations. On the other hand he does not object to the laying of mines of this type north of buoy H 3, because in that area PT boat operations are out of the question. (See Telegram 1815.)

3. Organization:

Group West requests the assignment of a naval liaison officer to the staff of the Commander in Chief, West, because in the long run the 2nd staff officer will be unable to perform liaison duties in addition to his regular assignment.

The decision of the Commander in Chief, Navy is to be obtained.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Between 0957 and 1516 an unidentified British vessel was located repeatedly between Orford Ness and Hook of Holland.

Own Situation:

The Oslo-bound 9th transport group consisting of 4 steamers sailed from Hamburg on 8 Apr. At noon one of the vessels, the EIDER, hit a mine in quadrant AN 9539 (6 miles north of Heligoland), the crew was transferred to the escorting steamer EPARA, having suffered no losses. Both steamers have arrived in the Elbe River.

The Swedish steamer ARA sank.

Convoy and escort service is proceeding according to plan without any incidents.

During the night of 8 Apr. naval anti-aircraft fire shot down 3 planes in the course of enemy air attacks. A bomb hit on the naval school at Wesermuende resulted in material damage and loss of lives. For details see Telegram 0801.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance on 8 Apr. sighted 12 steamers totaling about 48,000 GRT in Murmansk. Convoy PQ 14 was not located. Ice boundary: From 69° 30' N, 09° 40' W to 72° 20' N, 04° 14' W. According to a report from the port commander at Honningsvaag, 2 warships of unidentified nationality were cruising inside the mine field about 5 miles east of Helnes at 1300. One of these ships probably hit a mine and sank. Steps have been taken to investigate and confirm this.

Air reconnaissance sighted an enemy submarine 6 miles north of Vardoe on course 300°.

Own Situation:

Destroyer SCHOEMANN arrived in Kirkenes in the afternoon of 8 Apr. The operation to mine Petsamo Fjord has been cancelled.

Steamer KURZESEE, with a cargo of Army supplies, sank in Kavenang Fjord in the morning evidently as the result of a mine hit. Destroyer Z "28" and tanker "7" arrived in Stavanger.

Mine layer KAISER and the 4th Mine Layer Flotilla have left Trondheim to lay the Halten mine field.

In connection with the orders concerning the operation against convoy PQ 14 (see War Diary 6 Apr.) Group North points out that in view of the latest fuel oil restrictions it is justifiable to use the destroyers only if the enemy's position is definitely known and conditions are favorable enough to make the success of the operation very certain. (See Telegram 2006.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

According to information from the safe-conduct office at Goeteborg via the Naval Attaché, Stockholm, the DICTO and the LIONEL left the inner harbor of Goeteborg in the evening. Their present position is not known.

Photographic reconnaissance following the attack on Leningrad confirmed that the MAKSIM GORKI and 1 large destroyer were hit by heavy bombs. There is no definite evidence of hits on other vessels.

2. Own Situation:

Representatives of the Foreign Office and the Naval Staff, Operations Branch jointly interrogated the prisoners of the Norwegian ships from Goeteborg. For a copy of the report on the initial interrogation of the captains from the GUDVANG, SKYTTEREN, CHARENTE, and BUCCANEER see 1/Skl 1353 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The patrol line off the Swedish coast is covered by 6 patrol boats. On their voyage to Copenhagen icebreaker EISBAER and steamer LEONHARDT still encountered serious ice obstacles, necessitating the aid of an additional icebreaker.

Several days will be required to repair the icebreaker CASTOR. Unfortunately her use in the Gulf of Riga is thereby delayed. Finland has put the icebreaker SAMPO, which left Hangoe for Liepaja on 9 Apr., at our disposal for operations off Duenamuende. The SCHLESIEN and 10 steamers, accompanied by icebreaker OSTPREUSSEN, are en route to Liepaja.

Restrictions for merchant shipping have been lifted along the entire German coastal area of the Baltic Sea.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring repeatedly intercepted submarine warning and distress signals from the waters off the American coast. The following vessels were involved: U.S. tankers ALBERT E. WELLS (7,138 GRT), CARRABULLE (5,030 GRT), PAN GEORGIA (8,197 GRT), and steamer ESPARTA (3,365 GRT). The WELLS and the ESPARTA had evidently been torpedoed. Another unidentified steamer was under gunfire in the Florida Strait.

At noon a British plane in the Mediterranean reported sighting a surfaced submarine 140 miles northwest of Derna.

2. Own Situation:

The 125 operational submarines are distributed as follows:

a.	Arctic Ocean:	5 in Kirkenes, Narvik, and Trondheim, 14 at sea	19
b.	Atlantic:	North Atlantic and U.S. coast:	45
		South Atlantic:	2
		In bases in western France:	34
c.	Mediterranean:	7 thereof at sea	20
d.	German harbors:	3 are overdue	5
			125

Ships sunk by submarines during March (verified figures):

German submarines	89	ships	with	a	total	of	524,286	GRT
Italian "	19	"	"	"	"	"	82,000	"
Japanese "	19	"	"	"	"	"	101,098	"

Total Enemy Ships Lost (Great Britain, U.S., Russia, Netherlands) March 1942 (ships sunk and captured):

By submarines	707,384 GRT	
By naval surface forces	64,202 GRT	(Japanese share: 53,200 GRT)
By mines	15,955 GRT	
By the Air Force	77,564 GRT	
Captured and confiscated	212,462 GRT	(Japanese share: 140 vessels totalling 196,000 GRT)
Other losses (such as running aground, collisions, etc.)	17,826 GRT	
Thus the losses for Mar. 1942 amounted to 362 ships with a total of	1,095,393 GRT	

During March the German Navy lost a total of 4 submarines: Submarine U "133" in the Mediterranean, submarines U "587" and "656" while operating off the U.S. coast, and submarine U "503" while en route to the U.S.

For naval intelligence list of merchant shipping losses during Mar. 1942 and map showing the location of the verified ship sinkings off the U.S. East Coast between 1 Jan. and 31 Mar. 1942, see reference file "Merchant Shipping Losses".

The large tanker sunk by submarine U "754" on 7 Apr. was estimated at 13,000 GRT. An eastbound convoy of 4 steamers and 4 escort vessels was attacked unsuccessfully off Ras Azzaz in the Mediterranean. The submarine was driven off by destroyers and lost contact.

Fuehrer Headquarters, Army High Command and the Foreign Office were informed of the sinking of hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE reported by the German Naval Command, Italy. The zig-zagging vessel was hit by submarine U "453" with 3 torpedoes. The sinking was not observed. During the attack the submarine was facing the sun and recognized the ship's markings only after the torpedoes had been fired. The ship did not display any flag. The Fuehrer approved the proposal of the German Naval Command, Italy and decided that this unintentional sinking should be completely hushed up.

The German Naval Command, Italy and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines were informed of this decision. For details see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII. For additional information on submarine warfare see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Fighter-bombers carried out a daylight attack against Worthing with obvious results. In the evening 28 planes dropped mines in the Thames River.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Air raid waves continued against the city and harbor of Valletta and Malta airfields. One SC 500 hit was scored on the bow of a destroyer. At 0800 air reconnaissance located the AURORA-class cruiser which had left Valletta during the night in westerly direction. At 1810 she was observed westbound at high speed north of Cape Bougie. The fact that the ship left a wide oil trail facilitated finding the vessel and keeping contact with her. Reinforced by fighter-bombers and 15 Italian torpedo planes, a formation of bombers attacked the cruiser in several waves but failed to score any hits. The cruiser succeeded in outmaneuvering all bombs and aerial torpedoes aimed at her.

A noteworthy achievement!

Between 1 and 8 Apr. a total of 1,494.2 tons of bombs were dropped on the city and harbor of Valletta.

Naval Air Command, Africa supported all operations of the German

Africa Corps. According to the X Air Corps an enemy air attack against the Herakleion airfield destroyed one Ju 88 and damaged 5 others. In the evening of 8 Apr. 12 Ju 88's attacked an enemy airfield in Egypt. Results were observed.

3. Eastern Front:

Nothing to report from the Army fronts.

During the night of 8 Apr. 2 waves of planes attacked Tuapse harbor and oil refinery with good results.

4. Organization:

1. Regarding the reorganization of submarine chase areas, the Commanding Admiral, Submarines suggests to Group North that the northern boundary of the eastern part of the North Sea shall run from 61° 50' N, 05° 00' E to 63° 30' N, 00° 00' E, as in this manner it will be necessary to close only one area while German submarines are en route to and from the Atlantic. (See Telegram 1150.)

2. Group North, Group West, the Fleet Command, and the Air Force General attached to the Commander in Chief, Navy were informed of the directive issued by the Commander in Chief, Air regarding the assignment of the Commander, Naval Air to the 3rd Air Force, and of Coastal Air Squadron 1/706 to the 5th Air Force. For copy see 1/Skl 8135/42 Gkdos., War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

During the night of 8 Apr. the AURORA-class cruiser evidently left Valletta without a destroyer escort. An Italian submarine was the first to sight her at 0520 steering a course of 158° at a speed of 15 knots, and a course of 360°, speed 15 knots after passing Cape Bon. Italian air reconnaissance reported her off Bizerte at 0800, steering a course of 270°, speed 18 knots; at 0815, steering a course of 315°, speed 24 knots, and then continuing on a mean course of 270°, speed 22 knots. For battle report see Aerial Warfare.

In the morning only 3 destroyers were sighted in Valletta, 1 of them without a stern.

Apparently Valletta has been given up as a naval base, at least for the time being.

According to an Italian agent a low-flying plane displaying Free French markings came over Casablanca on 5 Apr. and was fired on by a French heavy cruiser.

There was only little shipping traffic in the Eastern Mediterranean.

2. Own Situation:

In the evening of 9 Apr. bad weather cancelled the mining operation of the 3rd Mine Layer Flotilla in Malta waters.

3. Situation Italy:

Enemy planes attacking Benghazi caused little damage.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Without incidents according to plans.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Situation unchanged.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

Official Japanese Navy report on operations in the Bay of Bengal:

1. 5 aircraft carriers were involved in the air attack against Colombo in the afternoon of 5 Apr. 2 British cruisers apparently of the SUFFOLK class received bomb hits and sank. 60 enemy planes were shot down. This operation is evidently planned to continue. On 5 Apr. bombs and gunfire of that same naval force damaged more than 10 enemy merchant ships in the Ceylon area, very likely sinking several of them.

2. On 6 Apr. in the northern part of the Bay of Bengal another Japanese naval force with 1 carrier sank more than 20 merchant ships amounting to more than 100,000 GRT and severely damaged 7 ships. The Japanese naval force suffered no losses.

3. 1 aircraft carrier took part in the Japanese landing on Christmas Island south of Java on 31 Mar. Enemy submarines attacked several times. Their attempts resulted only in slight damage to 1 Japanese cruiser. American reports to the contrary are false.

4. Naval infantry landed on the western part of New Guinea between 1 and 4 Apr. Air support was not required because the enemy offered no resistance.

5. According to prisoner of war statements the LANGLEY carried 32 fighter planes when she sailed from Freemantle. Severely damaged by heavy bombs, she was finished off by torpedoes from a U.S. destroyer. According to this information the official announcement of 10 Jan. that a submarine had sunk the LANGLEY, was erroneous.

According to radio monitoring on 9 Apr. the British tanker BRITISH SERGEANT reported sighting 1 enemy battleship and being fired on by 2 warships south of Trincomali.

> Japanese Navy and Naval Air Force successes are enviable. The Japanese profit from the fact that the German threat in home waters and the Battle of the Atlantic are tying up the British Navy and part of the U.S. Navy. The British Empire could have been defended on the seven seas only if a heavy concentration of British ships had succeeded in threatening or breaking the enemy's sea power. Only the timely appearance of the main part of the British fleet in Singapore or East Asia could have given a different turn to developments

in the Far East. Thanks to German-Japanese coordination Great Britain has been unable to achieve this. Within a reasonable time this situation may force Great Britain to consider discontinuance of hostilities with at least 1 of her 2 opponents.

If by exploiting the operational freedom achieved in the Mediterranean we were to exert pressure on the Suez now with all the entailing repercussions in the Near East and India, this goal could be brought within easy reach.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

The enemy resumed his attacks along the entire Feodosiya front, all of which were repulsed. The fighting east of Kharkov was successful.

Central Army Group:

All enemy attacks were frustrated. In an attempt to seal off the pocket west of Kortino, German panzer and infantry divisions attacked southwest of Rzhev. Continued thawing is making the roads increasingly worse.

Northern Army Group:

German troops were successful west of Kholm and near Demyansk. The difficult terrain is the cause for the slow progress of the attack of the Von Seydlitz group. Enemy attacks west of Yamno and south of Maluksa were repulsed. The commander of Naval Coastal Artillery Battalion 531 has taken over the command on Tytersaari.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Local reconnaissance activity.

3. North Africa:

East of El Cheima an enemy attack supported by tanks and artillery was repulsed with considerable losses to the enemy.

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10 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

U.S.S.R.:

The Japanese Foreign Minister informed the German Ambassador in Tokyo that by now Russia and Japan have been able to reach agreements on all issues of importance. He said that in general the attitude of the Russian Government has become rather cautious. According to Ambassador Tatekawa the morale of the Russian people which had risen during the successful winter campaign is again on the decline in anticipation of imminent German attacks. The physical condition of the people in Russia is lowered due to food scarcities and illness. Consumers' goods have become noticeably scarcer. Industries transferred from Leningrad, Bryansk, Kharkov, and the Donets basin are resuming production at a slow pace. Military experts in Kuibyshev estimate Russia's military strength still at more than 200 divisions. According to the Ambassador, Russia apparently intends to fight a delaying battle in the hope that Allied aid will come in 1942.

Japan:

Tojo also informed Ambassador Ott that in view of American military preparations Japan is keeping a close watch over the Aleutians. As for the question whether, when, and how Japan will invade these islands, he is unable to make any predictions at present.

Italy:

On 2 Apr. the German Military Attache in Rome sent a detailed report on the Italian situation to the Armed Forces High Command, Foreign Intelligence Section. The main weight of the Italian warfare continues to center in North Africa. The merit of the leadership of the Armored Army is clearly recognized. The employment of the 2nd Air Force and German submarines has improved the tactical and strategic situation to such an extent that the British do not hold naval supremacy any longer in the Central Mediterranean. As long as Malta is kept under control, supply shipments to North Africa are assured. However, they are inadequate and will not permit us to resume the offensive for several months to come. At present there are 7 Italian divisions in Libya. Another armored division is in the process of being shipped there. Persistent efforts must be made to check the harassing activity of the De Gaulle units in the area of the South Libyan oases. By now the Italian Armed Forces High Command has come to realize that Italy made a serious mistake in failing to take Malta at the very beginning of the war and is making an attempt to remedy the situation.

There are now 32 Italian divisions in the Balkans. In Croatia and Montenegro a continuous battle is being waged against partisans at the cost of losses which often enough are considerable. A combined German-Italian-Croatian operation is being planned to straighten out the situation.

At present 3 Italian divisions are fighting commendably at the Russian front. In addition 6 divisions are being prepared for shipment to that theater of war.

There are 24 divisions in Italy (including Sicily and Sardinia),

among them 1 armored division. 1 parachute division, 1 air-borne division, 8 divisions for occupational duties, and 9 coastal defense divisions are in the process of being set up.

The Navy has come more and more into the foreground through its escort duties. Its success has boosted optimism and has reduced British prestige considerably. Fuel oil is scarce. Specialized weapons were very successful against heavy ships in Alexandria.

Air Force activities concentrated on North Africa, where torpedo planes were successful.

As to conversion to war economy, Italy is making but slow headway. It is difficult to get a good insight into the armament program. Construction of transport ships, freighters, and tankers has started. The raw material situation is difficult. German authorities will have to check the needs of the Armed Forces in connection with Italian requests for raw materials. Black market activities greatly hamper the supply of civilian goods. Prices are going up. As of 15 Mar. bread rations were reduced by 25%. Only now the population is gradually beginning to realize the situation. Confidence in the government and the Party has suffered by the steady increase in the cost of living, yet the Duce's prestige has not suffered seriously. Lately the people are beginning to regain their confidence in the efficiency of the Italian Armed Forces. It can hardly be said that certain social groups (court circles or aristocracy) are actually against the war or anti-German. The common people are definitely pro-German. German-Italian cooperation is satisfactory, for which General Cavallero deserves special credit.

In conclusion: Inadequate preparation for war and shortages prevent Italy from making a more effective contribution to the war effort. The military command is trying to meet Italy's treaty obligations. The future attitude of the easily swayed Italians will depend on military developments, whereby even a temporary set-back may have considerable repercussions. Top military circles hope that it will be possible to defeat Russia in 1942. They believe that the achievement of this goal before the end of this year may well be the decisive factor in the outcome of the war, even if the war in the other theaters should continue for some time thereafter.

For copy of report see OKW Ausl. Abw. (Abt. Ausl.) 44/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIII.

France:

On 9 Apr. Roosevelt received the French Ambassador in Washington. In this connection many commentaries were published in the press regarding Franco-American and Franco-German relations. For details see Political Review No. 83, Paragraph 1. Improved relations between Vichy and Washington are generally interpreted as evidence that, for the time being at least, Petain has no definite plans concerning a treaty with the Reich.

Great Britain:

The arrival of General Marshall and Mr. Hopkins in London also brought about a variety of press and radio commentaries. (See Political Review No. 83, Paragraph 2.)

The majority of the reports on the situation in India are inclined

to be optimistic. However, the situation is still unsolved.

On 9 Apr. King Haakon declared in a proclamation to the Norwegian people that 60 warships are sailing under Norwegian colors today as escort ships, mine sweepers, and subchasers, and that the Norwegian merchant fleet with a total of 3½ million GRT is serving the cause of liberty.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The experience gained at St. Nazaire and Cape d'Antifer shows that Great Britain possesses the determination and the facilities to attack along our extensive coastline more frequently and on a greater scale than before. Considering this situation and the possibility of enemy landings in the Western Area, Norway, the Baltic Sea entrances, and the German Bight, the Naval Staff gives directives for the reinforcement of coastal defenses: Employment of naval forces, use of mines, employment of other naval weapons along the coast, setting up of new coastal batteries, and shifting of coastal batteries already on hand, utilizing former experiences. Finally the Commander in Chief, Navy sent a directive to all naval authorities concerned emphasizing that the reinforcement, completion, and improvement of the coastal defenses under the jurisdiction of the Navy, as well as those under the Army and the Air Force can be accomplished only to a small extent through the assignment of additional troops, weapons, and equipment "because our forces are being taxed to the utmost on all fronts, and our means are limited. Instead it will be necessary to distribute and assign the available equipment in the most economic way, to utilize all reserves, and to exploit all facilities and make-shifts. This will be particularly the task of the local commanders, placing greater responsibility upon their shoulders. I expect that all authorities realize the importance of this responsibility, and that they will use every opportunity to increase as much as possible the efficiency of the coastal defenses under the jurisdiction of the naval command in spite of the limited facilities at their disposal."

For copy of directive see 1/Skl I op 8329/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

On the basis of the above-mentioned directive the Chief, Naval Staff ordered the investigation of the reorganization of the coastal defenses in the German Bight. He invites suggestions, stipulating that all important gaps should be closed by about 1 Sept. 1942 in order to prevent surprise attacks in our river estuaries when the nights grow longer.

II. The Chief, Naval Staff agrees that if necessary 1 boat of the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla may be withdrawn from the West Area for the Torpedo Inspectorate.

III. Report by the Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff on German-Japanese code material in accordance with the minutes under Skl Chef MND 1557/42 Gkdos. For copy see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

The Chief, Naval Staff approves.

IV. The Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff reports on the sinking of the British hospital ship in the Mediterranean (see War

Diary 9 Apr.) and on the proposal made by the Armed Forces High Command, War Economy and Armaments Division that among others 3 submarines be given to Turkey as part of German war material shipments to that country amounting to a total of 150,000,000 marks. The Naval Staff is against transferring the 3 submarines because the strength of the German forces is being taxed enough as it is. It would be different if this were only a pseudo-transaction for the purpose of getting the submarines into the Black Sea. However, in view of the over-all picture (supplying Turkey with war material for the purpose of influencing her political attitude) it cannot be readily assumed that this is the case.

V. On 7 Apr. the Chief, Armed Forces High Command informed the Commander in Chief, Navy that the Fuehrer wants his personal report as soon as possible. Therefore, instead of waiting until the middle of the following week, the Commander in Chief, Navy decided to travel to Fuehrer headquarters directly after his return from western France.

With respect to the events at St. Nazaire on 28 Mar., the Commander in Chief, Navy gained the most favorable impression; he has been able to see for himself that, considering the limited possibilities, the manner with which the attack was repulsed deserves full praise. "Excellent work was done and things could not have gone any better."

Special Items:

I. The Naval Staff ordered Group North and the Fleet Command to transfer the cruiser LUETZOW to Norway during the new moon period in May, as soon as the most necessary work has been done to make her ready for action.

For copy see 1/Skl I op 736/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

II. The Commander in Chief, Navy established the post Commander, PT Boats. His order reads as follows:

"The command area formerly under the jurisdiction of the Commander, Torpedo Boats will be taken over partly by the Commander, PT Boats, partly by the Commander, Destroyers.

In peacetime the name Commander, Torpedo Boats stood for hard constructive work, in wartime for proud naval achievements. Although this command has to be dissolved, because war conditions necessitate a reorganization, its glorious tradition will continue to live on in naval history."

For copy see 1/Skl 8085/42 Gkdos. War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

III. The Naval Construction Division gives its viewpoint on the question of carrier planes. For copy see 1/Skl 7813/42 Gkdos. War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

The Naval Staff proposes to the Commander in Chief, Air that the Navy and the Air Force discuss the matter together.

IV. The enemy's surprise attack against St. Nazaire has shown again that the coastal defense must be given adequate advanced warning,

preferrably by means of extensive air reconnaissance, if the combat and reconnaissance facilities of the coastal defense are to function effectively.

With the establishment of the Naval Air Command, Atlantic Coast, the Commander in Chief, Air is taking over in the Atlantic area the responsibility for air reconnaissance in coastal waters close to the shore as well as further out to sea.

The forces at the disposal of the Naval Air Command, Atlantic Coast have decreased due to the shifting of the main weight of operations. These forces are made up of 1 reconnaissance squadron of Ju 88's, 1 bomber group of Ju 88's, 2 squadrons of FW 200's, and 1 squadron of ship planes. The Naval Staff feels that at their present strength these forces will be unable to meet the demands for adequate control of coastal waters.

The Fuehrer orders that in the future all enemy surprise attacks must be precluded; assembly of enemy forces and the beginning of enemy operations must be detected. The Naval Staff has always emphasized that the security of German coastal waters can be guaranteed only by exhaustive daily morning and evening reconnaissance flights. Figuring on an enemy speed of 30 knots, the range of these flights will be determined by the length of darkness prevailing during the respective period. Assuming that the minimum average area to be covered is about 300 miles in depth, assuming also that the visibility over the Atlantic is limited to 6 miles (which must be taken into account), it will take 27 planes to fly 1 reconnaissance mission. Apart from these morning and evening reconnaissance flights, additional planes will have to be made available for reconnaissance sorties from naval bases, for close escort and submarine chase.

In order to take under fire enemy forces approaching the coast at night, night reconnaissance planes and flare-dropping planes are an essential requirement.

For all operations which have to rely for success on the surprise element, the enemy must take advantage of those weather conditions which hinder our reconnaissance most, namely dark nights or days when the visibility is poor (fog). In this connection the vital importance of radar-equipped planes becomes evident. It is an established fact that such enemy planes are already in operation. Therefore a adequate technical equipment for our planes is as important as a sufficient number of planes.

Summing up the situation, the Naval Staff emphasizes that the Fuehrer's orders for effective measures to prevent enemy landings on the shores of the Atlantic coast can be carried out only if special air units can be made available for this purpose. The Naval Staff estimates the forces needed to accomplish this as follows: 6 reconnaissance groups to cover coastal waters and the area beyond by day, by night, and in any kind of weather; 2 reconnaissance squadrons to patrol naval bases; 3 squadrons for submarine chase and close escort.

Aside from the FW 200's still needed for special assignments, additional bombers will have to be made available so as to increase the effectiveness of the coastal defenses.

The Naval Staff transmits this viewpoint to the Air Force, Operations Staff, inviting comment in connection with the demands resulting from the Fuehrer order.

For copy of memorandum see 1/Skl 8331/42 Gkdos. War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

Situation 10 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

On 9 Apr. 2 heavy cruisers, nationality unknown, were sighted off Tenerife. According to an intelligence report Anglo-American naval forces will be expected to concentrate off the Canary Islands.

South Atlantic:

According to Vichy Telegraphic Service, Buenos Aires confirms officially that Argentine merchant vessels may not travel in convoys and may not be escorted by warships.

The Swedish press reports that a large dry-dock will be built in Capetown to replace the floating dock lost at Singapore. Time of construction 2 years.

2. Own Situation:

The RIO GRANDE arrived in Bordeaux on 10 Apr. The arrival of this blockade-runner adds 3,752 tons of rubber and 3,805 tons of whale oil to the German war industry.

Radiogram 1228 was sent to ship "28" with instructions to supply the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN with charts and instructions for the voyage to Japan, and to find out how many months the SCHLIEMANN could remain on the high seas beyond the reported 6 months endurance if submarines and pocket battleships would keep her supplied. It is of particular importance to get this information as it will affect future operations of ship "28".

Information on enemy situation through Radiograms 1720, 1917, 1801, and 2306.

II. Situation West Area

1. Atlantic Coast:

Naval Intelligence Center, Bordeaux reports the structural condition of the RIO GRANDE as very good. Her engines appear undamaged.

2. Channel Coast:

Harbor patrol boat "83" ran aground and sank off Dunkirk. Between 2220 and 2345 enemy planes attacked Le Havre causing but slight damage.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Steamer EIDER was towed into the Elbe. Steamer ESPANA arrived in Hamburg with troops from the EIDER. The 9th transport group is on the way to Oslo.

Beginning at 2220 numerous enemy plane incursions were made into the Netherlands. Single planes flew over the East Frisian Islands as far as the west coast of Holstein, presumably on reconnaissance and mine-laying missions.

2. Norway:

According to the Port Commander, Honningsvaag the warships sighted on 9 Apr. were actually submarines surfaced at Helnes. At 1246 two mine sweepers observed a mine detonation in the mine field, without sighting any vessels. After the detonation only 1 submarine on a northerly course was sighted from Helnes at about 1300. Again sighted by planes at 1334 and at 1535, she was identified as Russian. In view of the above-mentioned facts the Commanding Admiral, Norway believes that an enemy submarine, probably Russian, may have been destroyed in the Helnes mine field. Search by a subchaser on 10 Apr. was unsuccessful.

Between 0100 and 0900 the areas under the jurisdiction of the Naval Shore Command, Stavanger and Kristiansand South were ordered on special alert, and all seaworthy vessels in Stavanger were put on immediate alert.

The situation of the steamer SIMON VON UTRECHT which ran aground in the Oslo area remains unchanged. Unfavorable weather renders the job of salvaging the valuable cargo more difficult.

20 survivors from the steamer KURZSEE were saved, among them 9 seriously injured.

The interrogation of prisoners of war from the Goeteborg blockade-runners disclosed shipping routes, the layout of which makes it appear very likely that the enemy is in possession of the plans of the Westwall mine field which became known within the German Navy in Mar. 1941. Therefore it will be of vital importance to lay the planned mine field 18 A as soon as possible. For copy of relevant order to Group North see 1/Skl I E 8384/42 Gkôos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

The patrol line in the Skagerrak and off the Swedish coast was reinforced to 14 patrol boats. Air reconnaissance was cancelled. Therefore the 6th PT Boat Flotilla went on a reconnaissance operation in direction of the deep navigational channel of the Skagerrak; no results were reported.

Icebreaker EISBAER and steamer HANS LEONHARDT, handicapped by the ice, have not yet reached Copenhagen. They are expected to arrive on 11 Apr.

Icebreaker CASTOR is in Gdynia. Battleship SCHLESIEN, icebreaker OSTPREUSSEN, and 10 steamers are ice-bound off Liepaja.

At present ice conditions will prevent the enemy from launching any further attacks against Tytersaari. The ice is covered by as much as 60 centimeter of water. 2 trucks fell into ice crevices. It is no longer possible to bring up the planned reinforcements over the ice, such as the Army coastal battery, naval anti-aircraft guns, and 1 company of Naval Coast Artillery Battalion 531. The Finnish troops have withdrawn from Tytersaari.

The Chief Engineer Officer attached to the Commander in Chief, Army made 4 of the Siebel ferries at Antwerp available to the Naval High Command for immediate use in the Baltic Sea. (See Telegram 1835.)

Group North made the following request concerning the assignment of mine-sweeping planes: 2 flights of 2 planes each to be made available to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North for operation in the area of the 1st Coast Patrol Force, 1 flight of 2 planes to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea for operation in the Great Belt and in the Sound, and 1 flight of 2, if available, to the Commander, Mine Sweepers, Baltic Sea for operation in the area of the Baltic islands. (See Telegram 2357.)

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring intercepted a number of reports concerning submarines sighted off the American coast near Cape Hatteras, Cape Lookout, and off the coast of Florida. Southeast of Halifax a submarine attacked the Norwegian steamer MOSDALE (3,032 GRT).

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "160" (commander Lieutenant j.g. Georg Lassen) reported sinking 3 steamers and the tanker GULFPRIDE (12,510 GRT) between 27 Mar. and 9 Apr., a total of 29,010 GRT.

Submarine U "552" (commander Lieutenant Erich Topp) reported sinking 3 tankers and 1 steamer, a total of 35,100 GRT, between 5 and 10 Apr. It is believed that a large freighter of about 14,000 GRT was also sunk.

For supplement on submarine situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

The following are the reasons for the considerable decrease in the volume of incoming information concerning enemy ship movements: Improved enemy code system making decoding of his radio messages more difficult; fewer auxiliary cruisers, supply ships and blockade-runners; reduction of neutral merchant shipping. At present this situation can be improved only if immediate steps are taken to evaluate fully the entire material gathered by submarines. A directive to this effect sent out under special security measures was issued to the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, with copies to Group North, Group West, to the Communications Division, and to the Intelligence Division of the Naval Staff.

For copy of order see 1/Skl I u 497/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the day strong fighter formations made incursions into the Saint Omer-Boulogne-Dunkirk area. 7 Spitfires were shot down. East of Trondheim a formation of about 5 German fighters shot down another Spitfire. A Norwegian fishing cutter sailing alone was bombed and sank east of Kinnairds Head. Air reconnaissance sent out to locate convoy PQ 14 and Norwegian vessels trying to break out from the Skagerrak brought no results.

During the night 28 German planes laid mines in the Thames River. During the night of 10 Apr. 80 enemy planes operated over the Ruhr district. Their attacks failed to center on any particular objective. 42 incursions were made into western France, 14 into Belgium, and 3 into the Netherlands.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Waves of planes continued to attack Malta in the afternoon. 1 destroyer was hit in Valletta. 11 enemy planes were shot down over Malta. The X Air Corps attacked airfields in the Egypt area. A new enemy attack against Herakleion caused but slight damage.

3. Eastern Front:

Nothing to report.

For information concerning the strength of the Russian air forces as of 31 Mar. 1942 see daily situation report. According to this report air reconnaissance sighted a total of about 2,400 Russian planes.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

A cruiser of the AURORA class with 2 tripod masts sailed into Gibraltar from the west. A convoy from Liverpool is expected to arrive in Gibraltar. According to an intelligence report from Spain, fishermen observed 7 vessels, 4 of which are believed to be medium-sized freighters, leaving the Strait of Gibraltar in the night of 8 Apr. The eastbound vessels were travelling in 2 groups. At 0955 and 1245 air reconnaissance sighted 2 British ships, apparently light cruisers, in the waters northwest of Algiers. They were steering first an easterly, then a westerly course and may have been the same vessels which passed the Strait of Gibraltar during the night of 8 Apr.; or they may have been the vessels which met the cruiser departing from Malta. It is believed that it was this particular cruiser which an Italian submarine sighted steering a westerly course 80 miles northeast of Oran at 0453. At 1725 an Italian submarine located another unidentified northeastbound ship in the area north-northwest of Oran.

A-6599

At noon submarines were sighted off the west coast of Sardinia, and in the afternoon and evening north of the Strait of Messina, off Ancona in the Strait of Otranto, and off Cape Matapan.

Between Tobruk and Alexandria only 1 eastbound convoy consisting of 2 merchant ships, 1 destroyer, and 2 escort vessels was sighted 80 miles west of Alexandria. No other shipping was observed. According to Italian reports 2 British submarines will leave Great Britain in the middle of March, bound for the Mediterranean.

The British Admiralty announced that a submarine sank an Italian cruiser (10,000 GRT) equipped with 8-inch guns in the Central Mediterranean. This may possibly concern the sinking of the light cruiser BANDE NERE.

2. Own Situation:

It is planned to send the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla with 5 boats on a mining operation off Malta during the night of 10 Apr.

3. Situation Italy:

Nothing to report.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

At 0540 on 9 Apr. the Italian steamer GALA (1,029 GRT) sank south-southwest of Benghazi, cause unknown. Otherwise transport traffic proceeded without incidents.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Enemy Situation:

In the morning air reconnaissance located a submarine 30 miles north of Suda Bay.

Own Situation:

During the night of 9 Apr. enemy planes attacked Herakleion and Maleme airfields. No details were given. Transport service is continuing according to plans.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Evaluation of aerial photographs revealed that from 7 Apr. to 8 Apr. merchant vessels amounting to a total of about 10,000 GRT transferred from Tuapse to Novorossisk, which is crowded already. Group South reports enemy air activity over the area west and south of Sevastopol.

Own Situation:

In the afternoon and during the night of 9 Apr. enemy planes attacked Simferopol and Saki. Buildings in Simferopol were severely damaged.

It is believed that aerial mines were laid off Nikolayevka and off Saki.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

According to an announcement by Imperial Headquarters on 10 Apr. the following ships were sunk during the air raids on Ceylon: Aircraft carrier HERMES, 1 cruiser of the EMERALD class and 1 of the BIRMINGHAM class, 1 destroyer, 1 patrol boat, and 6 other vessels. 10 Japanese planes were lost. 46 enemy planes were shot down. Great Britain admits the loss of the HERMES but denies the sinking of the above-mentioned 2 cruisers.

The main resistance on Bataan Peninsula appears to be broken.

In connection with the attack against Ceylon the Naval Attache in Tokyo reveals that during the battle the Japanese aircraft carriers stood about 350 miles off shore. It is claimed that during the landing on the Christmas Islands 2 of the 3 enemy submarines located there were sunk.

Reuter reports heavy Japanese bomb attacks against Madras and severe destruction in Mandalay.

The British Admiralty announced that Japanese planes sank the cruisers DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL in the Indian Ocean. There were 1,100 survivors, among them the 2 captains.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

German forces smashing the enemy attack against the Feodosiya front on 9 Apr. demolished 56 of the 100 enemy tanks employed, and damaged 26 more, leaving them unable to move. There was but little fighting activity in the other sectors of this Army Group.

Central Army Group:

German operations southwest of Byelev and in the Zhizdra Valley were successful. Lively fighting activity is reported near Fomina and Yukhnov. In the pocket southeast of Vyazma German divisions made a concentrated attack and advanced successfully in spite of the poor roads. Most of the motor vehicle traffic has stopped. An enemy attack north of the Gzhatsk-Mozhaisk highway and northwest of Rzhev was repulsed. The unfavorable weather has rendered the supply road to the 9th Army impassable.

Northern Army Group:

The northeast part of Kholm had to be evacuated as the result of a strong enemy assault supported by tanks. At the Pola River the enemy evacuated the swamp position on the northwest wing of the Demyansk position. Advancing units of the Seydlitz Group repulsed heavy tank-supported enemy attacks. In the Volkhov pocket the enemy's main army of attack was inactive, presumably because of the thaw. There was heavy fighting at the point of penetration south of Maluksa. All enemy attacks were repulsed. Our assaults along the edges of the

breach were successful. The rising water rendered the positions along the railroad southeast and southwest of Leningrad unfit for use. The troops had to leave the trenches and are without shelter or cover.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Assault troops were active on both sides.

3. North Africa:

Lively patrol activity and artillery fire on both sides were reported.

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11 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

Representatives of governments-in-exile will also be asked to attend the London conference of Marshall and Hopkins for the purpose of finding out how the oppressed nations might be able to support the Allied war effort. Extensive conferences are scheduled between Marshall and Russian diplomats and military representatives.

India:

On 10 Apr. according to various reports the steering committee of the Congress Party unanimously decided to reject the British proposals. Thus it appears that Gandhi's advice carried more weight than Nehru's. For details see Political Review, No. 84, Paragraph 1a. Cripps is going to leave Delhi on 12 Apr.

Iran:

According to Iran radio reports a Kurdish rebellion broke out in several Iran provinces on 9 Apr. From day to day British influence in Iran is losing ground against Russian influence and bolshevist tendencies.

U.S.A.:

American propaganda for home consumption concentrates on national defense. According to a competent authority American patriotism is taking on fascist forms. Slogans of international or communist nature are unpopular even in the unions. It is claimed that the White House has already brought up the question of conscripting labor.

France:

Transocean News Service reports from Vichy that Petain and Laval met again on 9 Apr. The U.S. Ambassador is said to have declared that friendly relations between the U.S. and France would cease if Laval would enter the French cabinet. According to the official German news service (DNB) from Vichy, the Governor General of French West Africa told the press that this colony is loyal to Petain. He said Dakar and West Africa are strengthening their defenses, and denounced the biased Anglo-American propaganda.

U.S.S.R.:

The following information was supplied by the Japanese Air Attache in Berlin on 1 Apr. in accordance with the German-Japanese agreement concerning the exchange of information:

The Russians believe German military strength still very powerful. They anticipate that Germany will make an all-out effort against Russia, because at present and in the near future decisive successes against the Anglo-Americans cannot be expected.

Russia is estimated to have approximately 3 million men in her first line, and approximately 5 million in the second, including replacements. The replacement army is stationed in the Volga area and Siberia.

The situation after the German spring offensive will be no different from that which prevailed in July and Oct. 1941. Fighting strength and equipment of the 2 foes being about equal, Germany is not expected to retake quickly her former positions west of Moscow. At the front and at home the Red Army seems to be pretty well organized.

The Russians no longer count on Allied support in the form of a Second Front in Europe; instead they are determined to continue the war alone.

Stalin's Order of the Day on the occasion of Red Army Day which mentioned only reconquering territories formerly belonging to Russia, is taken as a gentle hint at the possibility of a separate peace.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the progress of German-Japanese discussions concerning the steamer SCHARNHORST, which supposedly is to be converted into an aircraft carrier or to be used as a transport ship. In the latter case Japan may charter the vessel, provided that she will keep the SCHARNHORST fully insured. If she wants to convert the ship she must buy her for 48,000,000 Marks. The enormous shipping space shortage which will probably exist after the war is a good reason why Germany should keep title to the vessel. Therefore in the interest of German shipping the Naval Staff is opposed to selling the SCHARNHORST.

The Chief, Naval Staff will ask the Fuehrer for his opinion in this matter.

II. The Chief, Naval Staff emphasizes the urgency of an effective alarm signal for all branches of the Armed Forces in the event of an enemy landing. The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff has taken the necessary steps.

III. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports on the question of including the Netherlands into the command area of Naval Station, North, which would mean taking over certain territories from the command area of the Commander in Chief, West.

The Chief, Naval Station, North voiced his misgivings concerning the plan of making the Navy alone responsible for all questions which go beyond matters concerning coastal defense. The Chief of Staff, Naval Staff and the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff suggest that this whole problem be solved in order to create clear-cut command areas.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees and will raise the question at the Fuehrer Conference.

The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff continues his report:

The 4 PT boats which are to proceed to the Mediterranean have left and are at present at Cologne.

The personnel of the GNEISENAU will be reduced as of 15 Apr. The ship will be decommissioned officially in June.

IV. On occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the occupation of Norway,

the Commanding Admiral, Norway sent a detailed report on the situation and developments there to the Chief, Naval Staff. The various questions mentioned in it are being followed up separately.

Special Items:

I. A report by the 82nd Infantry Division has made the Army High Command realize the urgency of fortifying the coast of the Netherlands, contrary to the viewpoint held by the Naval Staff (see War Diary 19 Mar.). Therefore the Army High Command has ordered the same priority for the fortification of the bases of the Hook of Holland and Ijmuiden as for the bases along the French-Belgian coast. The Commander in Chief, West places Flushing second on the priority list and Den Helder third.

II. It appears more and more possible that the enemy will attempt large-scale landings. Therefore the Commander in Chief, West has ordered all authorities in his command area responsible for the defense, on special alert. For copy of this order transmitted by Naval Station, North to the Naval Staff, see 1/Skl 8595/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIb.

III. According to the report of the Shipyard Branch to the Commander in Chief, Navy concerning construction of the GRAF ZEPPELIN the following completion dates have been set due to the necessities of installing a bulge, reinforcing the flight deck and hangar deck, converting the winches for the catapult cable and the arresting gear:

a. Earliest date by which the work can be completed: 11 July 1943.

b. Time estimated for completion if care is taken to leave submarine construction undisturbed: 1 Oct. 1943.

c. Date of final completion: between Dec. 1943 and Apr. 1944.

d. Ready for operation, under most favorable conditions: fall 1944.

The above-mentioned plan makes no provisions for torpedo planes and calls for only 10 converted pursuit planes and 22 converted bombers (this includes reconnaissance planes). It is planned to keep the carrier in dock in Wilhelmshaven for a period of 5 months.

For the time being, the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division was ordered to find out from the Naval Construction Division the reasons for this disastrous delay in the completion of the carrier. Because of the ever-present danger of enemy air attacks against Wilhelmshaven, it will be out of the question to keep the ship in dock there for as long a time as 5 months.

The matter of carrier planes will be followed up separately (see War Diary 10 Apr.). If the carrier were actually forced to operate with such few planes and without any torpedo planes, the operational value of this ship would be reduced to an absolute zero.

IV. The Navy High Command (Naval Ordnance Division, Underwater Obstacles Branch) has submitted an account of mine supplies on hand directly to the Armed Forces High Command and to Fuehrer Headquarters.

The figures in this report are misleading, because added up they give a wrong impression of the actual supply of the various types of mines, e.g., the amount of reserves ready for use.

Therefore the Naval Staff ordered the Naval Ordnance Division, Underwater Obstacles Branch to keep this in mind in issuing their future reports. For order see 1/Skl I E 8171/42 Gkdos. For copy and for Naval Staff survey of supplies on hand and plans concerning standard mines type C and anti-submarine mines type B see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

The above-mentioned inventory of the Naval Staff reveals that in accordance with the survey of 1 Apr. 1942 of the Procurement and Equipment Section the following mines are fully usable out of a total of 57,638 mines of various types on hand:

13,819 standard mines, type C
6,701 anti-submarine mines, type B
1,669 river mines, type B
1,156 river mines, type C

totalling 23,345

Only 1,122 of these mines are not earmarked for mining operations.

Until 1 June replacements will amount to 1,000 standard mines per month, after 1 July to 500 per month.

For the next 8 months 500 anti-submarine mines, type B will become available each month.

V. Based on the experiences gained as the result of the TIRPITZ operation between 6 and 13 Mar., Group North sent out instructions concerning future operations of German surface vessels in northern waters to the Commanding Admiral, Battleships and the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean (copies to the Fleet Command and the Commanding Admiral, Norway) with the agreement of and in accordance with orders issued by the Naval Staff.

For copy see 1/Skl 675/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

Situation 11 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

At present the following shipyards are working on the construction of major warships in the U.S.:

8 government navy yards with 30 slips, 14 private shipyards with 87 slips, a total of 117 slips. These are broken down as follows:

battleships	3 shipyards with	6 slips and 4 docks
aircraft carriers	2 shipyards with	5 slips
cruisers	6 shipyards with	26 slips
destroyers	13 shipyards with	57 slips
submarines	4 shipyards with	23 slips

For detailed list including dates and names see News Evaluation No. 16 in the reports issued by the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Navies Branch.

South Atlantic:

According to a French report the British cruiser DIOMEDE was in Montevideo on 7 Apr. (See War Diary 9 Apr.)

Indian Ocean:

On 10 Apr. information was received from Lourenco Marquez that a large number of merchant ships is gathering in Capetown. Mention was also made that the QUEEN MARY was in one of the many convoys which touch Capetown en route to the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, and especially Australia. The rumor that she was torpedoed off South America is therefore proven false.

2. Own Situation:

Ship "10" reported making a surprise attack on the steamer KIRKPOOL (4,842 GRT) and sinking her in quadrant GO 62 on 10 Apr.

Confirmed by Radiogram 2327.

Another gratifying success!

A short signal from the DOGGERBANK which meant: "FT28 missing", though the wrong code was used, can at least be considered as a sign of life. Confirmed by Radiogram 1132.

Radiogram 1514 instructed the REGENSBURG to rendezvous with the TANNENFELS.

All ships in foreign waters were informed by Radiogram 2022 that the DOGGERBANK will return to her former waiting position, remaining there for use as a supply ship, as soon as she has carried out her special assignment.

Radiograms 1432 and 1527 were sent with information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring intercepted messages from Dover concerning the sailing of a German convoy from Boulogne and the appearance of PT boats in South Foreland and Lowestoft waters. In the morning 1 British vessel was located 480 miles west of Brest.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines were informed that the approach point of the **FUSIJAMA** has been changed to 43° N, 36° W. The German Naval Command, Italy informed the Air Command, Atlantic Coast, the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, and the

Naval Staff that at noon on 12 Apr. convoy "Beta" (2nd group of the Italian East Africa ships) will leave Gibraltar bound for Capetown.

Channel Coast:

The 4th PT Boat Flotilla departed for a mining operation off Southwold and the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla, in 2 groups, put to sea to attack a southbound convoy in Cross Sands waters.

On 10 Apr. the shore battery on the cliffs of St. Margarets fired 7 rounds on a German convoy en route from Boulogne to Dunkirk, without scoring a hit.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report. Normal reconnaissance and convoy activity.

Own Situation:

The 9th transport group Hamburg-Oslo arrived on schedule in Oslo. The 10th transport group is to sail from Hamburg on 13 Apr. A number of mine-sweeping operations had to be cancelled because of the weather. Escort duties are proceeding according to plans. The 1st Mine Sweeper Flotilla and the 8th Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla left on a mining operation in the Hoofden.

Since it is quite possible that submarine U "702" was lost on route "Blau", Group North ordered the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North to conduct another thorough search along the entire route, particularly its northern end, over a wide area and to as great a depth as possible. According to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North no trace of the British radio-beacon buoy has been found so far. No more radio-beacon signals were intercepted.

In the evening an escort vessel shot down 1 enemy plane north of Vlieland.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

At 0910 air reconnaissance sighted convoy PQ 14 consisting of 12 merchant ships, 4 tankers, and 4 destroyers on course 360° in quadrant AC 8553.

The Coastal Air Group reports from Banak that at 0935 a very large northbound submarine was sighted 20 miles west of the North Cape. The submarine was painted grey-green and carried 2 guns side by side on the foredeck.

The convoy was last sighted 120 miles northeast of Vardoe at 1825. The convoy in question is apparently QP 13.

At 2200 on 9 Apr. air reconnaissance sighted convoy PQ 14 at 22°

35' W, which is much further west than believed at first. (Tr.N.: Obviously erroneous report, should be East longitude.)

Own Situation:

The Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean plans to commit the Arctic Ocean destroyer group against convoy QP 13 as it is escorted by only 4 destroyers. In order to be sufficiently strong in case additional destroyers should escort the convoy and in view of the fact that PQ 14 is approaching at the same time, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean requests Group North immediately to transfer 1 heavy ship to Kirkenes for a short time. By moving into the ice she will have adequate protection against torpedo attacks in that harbor for the time being. (See Telegram 1543.) Group North has rejected this request.

Transport and convoy service in northern Norway according to schedule. Convoys are moving freely.

The Naval Staff made mine layer ROLAND available to Group North for immediate assignment. (For request see War Diary 19 Mar.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

According to attache report from Stockholm the LIONEL and the DICTO are still in Goeteborg harbor. The REALF II is lying at anchor in the stream. Her captain is said to have joined other Norwegian shipowners in refusing to take his ship to Great Britain. The newly-built tanker JULIUS (16,000 GRT) has been completed in Goeteborg.

2. Own Situation:

At present 11 patrol boats are assigned to the patrol line in the Skagerrak.

On 11 Apr. Group North reported its intention of reinforcing the Skagerrak mine field by laying a new one east of the present mined area and requested the LEIPZIG as a mine carrier in this operation. Although the Naval Staff approves this plan in principle, it believes that the laying of a mine field as part of the Westwall defense in order to close the gap in barrage 17 B is at present the most urgent mine-laying task, because the enemy seems to know about this gap. Group North was informed of the above-mentioned viewpoint and was given assurance that a decision concerning the LEIPZIG would follow later. For telegram see 1/Skl I E 8512/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

V. Merchant Shipping:

1. A survey on the state of German shipping as of 1 Apr. 1942 and on the use to which the ships are being put was sent as requested to the Naval Liaison Officer attached to the Armed Forces High Command. For copy see 1/Skl I a 8387/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XI.

2. Information on shipping traffic between Russia and Great Britain

on the northern route includes a report on the interrogation of the first mate from the Russian steamer IVORA captured when a German destroyer sank his ship. For copy see 1/Skl 13804/42 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XI.

3. For summary of various reports and information on foreign merchant shipping see Brief Report No. 11/42 of the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring intercepted a report concerning a submarine attack in the area 200 miles southwest of the Azores. At 0920 signals were picked up from an unidentified vessel sinking evidently in the Freetown area.

Numerous messages were intercepted on submarine sightings, torpedoing of ships, and submarine attacks off the American coast:

The American tanker TENNESSEE (6,403 GRT) was torpedoed south of Cape Lookout. At that position the steamer SANTA ROSA (9,135 GRT) sighted a burning vessel, presumably torpedoed. The Dutch steamer HIBE (1,140 GRT) was sunk southwest of Cape Fear. Off the coast of Florida the American steamer EVELYN (3,143 GRT) sent a submarine warning signal. The steamer had been torpedoed off the Chesapeake Bay on 4 Apr. The steamer ULYSSES was torpedoed southeast of Cape Lookout. South of the Cape a submarine fired on the American steamer EDWARD L. SHEA (6,746 GRT).

A report on a submarine attack was picked up in the West Indies originating about 600 miles northeast of Puerto Rico. According to a message sent by the American steamer DELVALLE (5,032 GRT) she sighted a periscope about 80 miles south of Cayes (Haiti).

2. Own Situation:

For submarine operations against convoy QP 13 and convoy PQ 14 in the Arctic Ocean see supplementary report on the situation.

Submarine U "252" announced sinking a 2,000 GRT steamer at night in the Denmark Strait without being detected. She reported the coast of Iceland free of ice. Ice border in quadrant AD 2911.

Off Cape Lookout submarine U "160" torpedoed a passenger ship of the ANTENOR type (11,170 GRT). According to radio intelligence this may have been the ULYSSES. Although planes overhead prevented the submarine from watching the sinking of the steamer, the ship may be assumed a total loss, because 3 torpedo hits were definitely observed.

For additional report on the submarine situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

Group North agrees with the proposal of the Commanding Admiral, Submarines concerning the new division of operational areas for submarine chase. (See War Diary 9 Apr.)

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

No special reports were received concerning the fighter bomber mission against Exmouth. According to the radio intercept service of the Air Force, planes attacked a convoy east of The Wash at 2217. In this connection no information has been received from our air units.

During the night 6 German planes flew armed reconnaissance missions, 28 laid mines in the Thames. 12 enemy planes flew over northern France and 1 over western France. No bombs were dropped.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Aerial photographs of Valletta taken at 1340 show 2 damaged destroyers in dock there, 1 of them with a direct bomb hit. In the afternoon 4 bombs hit a destroyer and 2 bombs fell between the quay wall and the destroyer. According to the planes carrying out the afternoon mission against Valletta, 1 destroyer sank in dock when the flood-gate was demolished.

3. Eastern Front:

On 10 Apr. 2 steamers (10,000 GRT and 6,000 GRT) were damaged when Novorossisk and Tuapse were attacked.

Between 1140 and 1815 32 Ju 88's kept up a continuous attack against convoy QP 13. So far the following results were reported: 2 merchant ships of 3,000 GRT each, and 1 of 2,000 GRT damaged; 1 merchant ship of 4,000 GRT and another one of 5,000 GRT severely damaged.

Because the first operation against the naval forces in the Kronstadt Bay and Leningrad showed poor results, additional attacks were ordered against these targets. The beginning of the muddy season in the area of the 1st Air Force has compelled us to withdraw the bulk of our bomber forces to the East Prussian airfields, which are equipped with runways. Thus it will be rather difficult to carry out the planned operation against Leningrad.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon a cruiser of the AURORA class docked in Gibraltar. An intelligence report from Spain reports that bombs had damaged the upper deck as well as both sides of this cruiser. According to Italian information submarines were sighted southeast of Kerkenna on 10 Apr.; and off Tripoli, off Cape Durazzo, off Cattaro, and north of Corfu on 11 Apr.

Aerial photographs of Valletta (see Aerial Warfare) reveal the following: 1 submarine, 1 escort vessel, 4 burned out or damaged steamers, 1 harbor tanker, and the destroyer with missing bow which was reported sunk on 10 Apr. It seems that all the above-mentioned vessels are ships no longer able to operate.

No other enemy vessels were sighted in the Central and Eastern Medi-

terranean. Only 1 large southbound steamer was reported 30 miles north of Port Said.

2. Own Situation:

During the night of 10 Apr. the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla carried out a mine-laying operation according to plans. Another mission is planned for the night of 11 Apr.

3. Situation Italy:

During the night of 10 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi. No information has been received concerning the damage done. The torpedo net barrage at Benghazi has been completed.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Escorted by 1 torpedo boat and 4 German motor mine sweepers the steamer ATLAS and the Italian steamer BRAVO have left Tripoli en route to Benghazi. Otherwise nothing to report.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

With the arrival of the 11th Siena Transport Squadron in Suda, all in all 13,000 fully equipped men have been shipped to Crete since the beginning of these transports in Dec. 1941.

Black Sea:

The enemy seems to be sweeping mines off Sevastopol. Nothing else to report.

IX. Situation East Asia

1. Enemy Situation:

The U.S. Navy Department announced that in the Philippines submarine tender CANOPUS, mine sweeper BITTERN, and a tug were scuttled by their own crews and a dry dock was destroyed. An American submarine sank a large armed Japanese ship in the Celebes Sea, possibly an auxiliary cruiser or supply ship.

According to Reuter the Japanese have occupied the island of Cebu in the Philippines.

2. Situation Japan:

The Military Attache, Bangkok reports that effective night attacks were the decisive factor in breaking the resistance on Bataan. According to the Vichy Telegraphic Service Japanese dive bombers succeeded in sinking aircraft carrier HERMES without the support of torpedo planes about 70 miles south of Trincomali.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

On 11 Apr. strong enemy troops resumed the unsuccessful attacks at the Feodosiya front. Only local fighting in the area of the Von Kleist Army group.

Central Army Group:

The enemy attacked unsuccessfully near Bolkhov and southwest of Sukhinichi. There was lively, fluctuating combat activity around Fomina. Several enemy attacks against German positions northwest of Yukhnov came to a standstill at the Ugra. German troops carried out successful attacks against encircled Russians in the pocket southwest of Vyazma and succeeded in establishing several bridgeheads over the Ugra. A penetration northeast of Gzhatsk was sealed off. Mud made it necessary to withdraw German positions northeast of Rzhev. Strong enemy pressure is being exerted against our troops advancing south of the Rzhev-Mostovaya railroad. The enemy has reached the supply road south of Byelev. Preparations for counterattacks are under way.

Northern Army Group:

After penetrating into the northern part of Kholm the enemy is continuing his tank attacks against the city. At the northwestern tip of the Demyansk front superior enemy forces broke into German positions in the Pola Valley. The center of the Von Seydlitz group is continuing to advance toward the Lovat in spite of stubborn enemy resistance and the difficult terrain. Wedged-in enemy units were annihilated. An unsuccessful Russian attack against the northern flank of the group resulted in heavy enemy losses. Renewed enemy tank attacks against the pocket south of Maluksa were repulsed. A German thrust in this sector was successful.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

On the Karelian Isthmus and at the Svir front scattered enemy attacks were repulsed. On 8 Apr. German and Finnish units made a surprise attack in the Lota sector advancing deep into the area across the Russo-Finnish border. A strongly fortified enemy strong point with more than 40 bunkers was taken by storm and about 2 to 3 enemy companies were annihilated.

3. North Africa:

There was very lively enemy reconnaissance activity along the entire front.

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12 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

India:

The All-India Congress is rejecting the British proposals because the Indians are not to be left in control of national defense. The Moslem League is giving the unsatisfactory solution of the Pakistan question as the reason for their decision. Before the Press and in a radio address Cripps stated that his mission failed because of the dissension among the Indian parties. Official circles in London claim that Great Britain will continue to rule India and that the country will be placed under martial law. British radio and news agency reports emphasize Nehru's statement that the Indian people must do everything they can to defend themselves against a Japanese invasion. At the same time he is definitely opposed to the formation of an "Indian Army of Liberation" which Chandra Bose may want to organize. Nehru also believes that a German-Japanese victory would spell disaster. Therefore he had tried to meet Great Britain half-way whenever possible. For details on the failure of the Cripps mission see Political Review, No. 85, Paragraph 1.

Great Britain:

Not so much the failure of the Cripps mission in itself, but rather the general situation which forced the British to negotiate with the Indian parties in the first place, is a source of grave concern to Great Britain. As for Churchill, his sole interest at present is to keep the Indian war potential on the side of the Allies. No concessions appear too great to him if they can help in winning victory or averting defeat. For the time being the effect of the Indian question on Great Britain must be judged only from this point of view.

The interrogation of British prisoners of war taken at St. Nazaire yielded interesting results concerning British public opinion:

The general public no longer believes in total victory over Germany; however, the possibility of a British defeat is not even considered. Confidence in Churchill and Russia's ability to hold her own is still strong, while there seems to be less confidence in American support. It is believed that the war will take a decisive turn before the end of the year and that Germany must be prepared for a surprise. The opinion on Eden appears favorable. Not Cripps but Eden is considered Churchill's successor if this indispensable man should go. The Armed Forces are well fed. There appears to be no danger of Great Britain turning bolshevist even if the entire continent should. A change of social conditions in Great Britain after the war is desired and anticipated. Enthusiasm for the war is lacking. The German-American war is considered an insane undertaking, and it is felt that the countries ought to unite against the red and the yellow danger. There seemed to be little or no fear at all that the U.S. might take advantage of Great Britain. German propaganda is followed with great interest and objectively compared with British propaganda. Attention is called to exaggerated German reports concerning bomb damages and the ARK ROYAL.

Ireland:

According to radio reports from Ireland the export of livestock for slaughter in Great Britain is prohibited as of 4 Apr. The London

radio announced that southern Ireland is threatened by famine.

Africa:

Svenska Dagbladet announced that the highway Capetown-Cairo has been completed. Nairobi-Addis Ababa was the last stretch. It is claimed that since Italy entered the war the British have built 5,500 km. of highways and 900 km. of railroad in Africa. Harbors in Egypt have been expanded to double their former capacity.

Bulgaria:

Filov formed a new government. The cabinet changes do not affect the general war situation.

Turkey:

Public opinion in Turkey is becoming increasingly aware of German achievements, particularly those of cultural nature. Prior to his return to Berlin Ambassador Gerede said that he is favorably impressed by German-Turkish relations.

Special Items:

I. In connection with the Italian plan to capture Malta (see War Diary 23 Mar.) the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Sea Transportation Branch was instructed to comply as far as possible with Italian requests that the construction of 30 prefabricated landing barges be expedited. In this connection the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Sea Transportation Branch reports that 15 of the landing barges ordered by Italy have been completed so far and that between 25 May and the end of October 35 additional landing barges will come off the production line. This is a total of 50. If Italian labor were provided the vessels could be completed at an earlier date. It is planned to put this question on the agenda when the Fuehrer and the Duce meet. The German Admiral in Rome will be notified.

II. The monthly report of the Armed Forces High Command for March includes a compilation of the Navy concerning available mines. The report emphasizes that the small allotments of raw materials during the first and second quarter of 1942 have resulted in much smaller mine production. On account of other more important work, it became necessary in recent months to leave certain work on the mines undone. Thus a considerable number of spare parts for certain mines have accumulated. This means that in the months to come additional mines can be delivered in addition to the regular quota. Only in this way will we be able to meet the current high demands from Group North for the Arctic Coast, etc., from the Commander, Mine Layers, North for the Baltic Sea, from Group South for the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea, from German Naval Command, Italy for Malta, etc. If the demands continue at the present rate, or if they should be increased, the mine supplies will be inadequate in the long run.

Concerning Torpedoes: On 1 Apr. the total of G7a torpedoes amounted to 4,937 as against a required minimum of about 5,200 (required minimum is the number of torpedoes needed for full equipment of all torpedo-carriers, etc.). The total supply of G7e torpedoes amounted to 11,954 as against a required minimum of about 6,050 torpedoes. About 1,000 torpedoes from the surplus are to be set aside for delivery to Italy.

During the coming months the production of aerial torpedoes will begin to increase later than originally planned because of the difficulties arising from the allotment of raw materials.

On 1 Mar. the supply of aerial torpedoes amounted to 660. On 1 Apr. the supply of aerial torpedoes amounted to 755.

Surplus will be reported by the Air Force.

Naval losses during March (the figures enclosed in parentheses indicate the number of ships lost between 1 Sept. 1939 and 31 Mar. 1942):

Battleships and pocket battleships:	-	(2)
Cruisers:	-	(3)
Destroyers:	Z "26"	(14)
Torpedo boats:	-	(5)
Submarines:	U "133"	(71)
PT boats:	-	(9)
Auxiliary cruisers:	-	(3)
Motor mine sweepers:	-	(7)
Mine sweepers:	M "5608"	
	"3615"	
	"3408"	(38)
Subchasers:	-	(13)
Patrol vessels:	-	(24)
Mine layers:	-	(4)
Mine-detonating vessels:	"171"	
	"172"	(5)
Other vessels:	-	(8)

III. In accordance with the Fuehrer's directive of 14 Mar. (see 1/Skl 605/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa) Group North has taken steps to guarantee good cooperation between Group North and the 5th Air Force. Liaison officers are being exchanged and a naval staff officer is to be attached to the 5th Air Force. In agreement with the Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff measures have been taken to eliminate as much as possible past shortcomings in communications and to assure tactical cooperation between the Navy and the operational air forces in Norway. Due to the necessity of radio priority a special wave length for this purpose is planned and general rules have been established for communications between ships and fighter cover, close escorts, and the bomber forces of the Air Force. Special wave lengths have been established to improve tactical reconnaissance. The Commanding General, Armed Forces, Norway has asked that he as well as the Army commands in Norway be included. The matter will be looked into as soon as possible. Attempts will be made to extend the arrangements agreed upon with the 5th Air Force, also to the Commanding General, Air Force Group Command, Central Area and to the 3rd Air Force.

For copy of report by Group North see 1/Skl 8413/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The naval liaison officer with the Armed Forces High Command informed this office that the Chief of the Armed Forces Communications Branch, Lt. General Erich Fellgiebel, reported to the Fuehrer on ship-to-plane communications. He emphasized in this connection that a thorough briefing on communications must precede combined operations of the Navy and the Air Force. Mistakes during the last operation of the TIRPITZ can be explained through the absence of such briefing.

In this connection attention must be called to the fact that at no time did communications actually break down during the TIRPITZ operation. However, weather conditions were unfavorable and contributed

in part to the poor and slow transmission of certain messages. The 5th Air Force had failed to notify Group North fully about the latest distribution of the air forces in Norway so that Group North was not completely aware of the organization of the Air Force in that area. While preliminary meetings of Group North and the 5th Air Force did take place prior to the TIRPITZ operation, it was hardly possible for all branches concerned to participate in detailed conferences because of the vast distances in Norway. In the past the Air Force has never fully cooperated when the Navy suggested something. The above-mentioned communication system, agreed upon between Group North and the 5th Air Force, was originally tried out many years ago in cooperation with the naval air forces. It is based furthermore on needs as shown and tested during numerous exercises in which the fleet and the Commander, Naval Air cooperated. This communications system establishes a measure of cooperation similar to that formerly practiced with the naval air force. It is possible that the agreement entered into with the 5th Air Force, which gives much consideration to the wishes of the Navy, cannot be expected to be applied in relation to the entire Air Force. However, the Commanding General, Air Force Group Command, Central Area has declared himself ready to come to an agreement on this basis. It is planned to make similar arrangements with the 3rd and the 1st Air Forces. The Naval Staff would appreciate if the Armed Forces High Command and the Chief of the Air Force Communications Division would refrain from unnecessarily interfering with the present favorable developments. The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff has authorized Group North to proceed with the discussions.

Situation 12 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an intelligence report from Tangier, fishing vessels sighted a good-sized British naval force, which included the MALAYA, cruising in Casablanca waters. It is reported that British planes dropping leaflets made several flights over Casablanca and French territory. On 7 Apr. a naval force passed Rabat at a great distance. No details were given.

At present clippers of the Pan American Airways are covering the following routes: Twice weekly New York-Lisbon (via Bermuda or Horta) -Bolama-Para-Trinidad-San Juan-New York. Every 2 weeks a plane flies from New York-Miami-Bolama-Lisbon, returning by way of Bolama and Brazil. During the summer Pan American Airways is planning regular flights from North America-Bermuda-Portugal-Ireland and back. Reuter reports telling of German attacks on clippers are claimed false, and it is being maintained that no plane has been attacked since the beginning of the war.

South Atlantic:

On 25 Mar. the ALCANTARA loaded with troops and supplies for Australia was lying in Freetown. She departed on the following day en route to Capetown.

Indian Ocean:

A British steamer about 180 miles northeast of Durban sent

a distress signal reporting enemy warship,

Pacific Ocean:

The U.S. Navy is using nonrigid dirigibles to patrol the Pacific Coast. Since 1 Feb. the 1st Squadron of these has been operating from Moffet Field, Sunnyvale, California. The dirigibles, so-called blimps, have a length of about 70 m., are equipped with 2 motors and with machine guns, and operate escorted by heavy fighters.

2. Own Situation:

Radiogram 1005 was sent to DOGGERBANK with instructions for return to her former waiting area after completion of her special mission. She is to supply an auxiliary cruiser later.

The TANNENFELS received instructions by Radiogram 1114 for her rendezvous with the REGENSBURG.

Since it becomes evident from the report of the German Naval Command, Italy that the Italian East Africa steamers are to put into Capetown, it will be necessary to inform the Italian Navy that the whole area around Capetown is mined.

In this connection a memorandum was sent first of all to the Italian Admiral attached to the Naval Staff. Copy as per 1/Skl Ik 8613/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

Radiograms 1800 and 1236 were sent to all ships in foreign waters informing them of the routes to be followed by the Italian steamers VULCANIA and SATURNIA and giving an account of the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reported 5 PT boats southeast of the Isle of Wight on westerly course and 3 mine sweepers on easterly course.

According to the Naval Attache, Madrid, cruisers and destroyers took part in the operation off St. Jean de Luz on 5 Apr., in the course of which shore battery fire sank a landing craft with 40 men which was attempting to approach St. Jean de Luz harbor.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The Fuehrer has ordered the occupation of Ile de Groix, Belle Ile, Ile de Noirmoutier, Ile d'Yeu, Ile de Re, and Ile d'Oleron off the French Atlantic Coast. In this connection the Naval Staff has given a written account of its own viewpoint as well as the opinion of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West as to the necessary defensive measures. For copy see 1/Skl I op 8556/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X. So far it was not possible to evaluate the plans of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West since time was too short and since it is necessary to find out the reasons for this action.

Channel Coast:

In spite of strong interference from enemy destroyers, 4 PT boats of the 4th PT Boat Flotilla succeeded in carrying out their mine-laying mission, while the fifth boat returned unable to dispose of her mines. The 2nd PT Boat Flotilla was pursued by an enemy destroyer and failed to accomplish its mission. For brief reports see Telegrams 1100 and 1335.

3. Organization:

When the Commander in Chief, Navy visited western France, the Commanding Admiral, France took the opportunity to bring up for discussion a request already decided by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff concerning the transfer of 33 vessels of the harbor defense flotillas to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West. The renewed request and its rejection by Group West will be reviewed by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division. Copy as per 1/Skl 8594/42 Gkdos. and 1/Skl 8568/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIb.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reported very much convoy activity along the east coast. By noon 4 southbound convoys and 1 northbound convoy, 125 steamers in all, were counted between Kinnairds Head and Lowestoft.

There was moderate daylight reconnaissance over the German Bight. 1 plane was shot down by a fighter plane.

Own Situation:

At 1700 on 11 Apr. the tanker EUROSEE (6,000 GRT) hit a ground mine off Terschelling. It was attempted to tow her in on the following day; however she had to be beached near buoy 53. There is little hope that the ship can be salvaged, although everything will be done to save the cargo. The ship was bound for Norway.

North of Heligoland mine-detonating vessel "10" hit a ground mine and had to be beached on Duene east of Heligoland. On 11 Apr. 3 ground mines were swept in quadrant 95, and on 12 Apr. 3 more were swept. Group North is therefore justified in emphasizing that the enemy aerial mine offensive is presently concentrating on the German Bight. Lately more enemy planes are operating in the area, more mines are being swept, and there are greater losses (8 Apr. steamer ARA, 9 Apr. steamer EIDER, 11 Apr. tanker EUROSEE, 12 Apr. mine-detonating vessel "10"). Every success in sweeping mines involves heavy damage to mine sweepers and a long period for repairs of mine-detonating vessels due to the new type of magnetic firing device. Group North requests therefore that the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North be provided immediately with mine-sweeping planes. Group North asks also that several bar-magnet sweeps be made available as soon as possible and that all mine sweepers be equipped with polarity reversing devices as quickly as possible. (See Telegram 1537.)

This enemy aerial mine offensive is indeed a serious threat to merchant shipping and to the incoming and outgoing submarines; it necessitates speeding the im-

provement of our countermeasures.

The 1st Mine Sweeper Flotilla and the 8th Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla have returned from a successful mine operation in the Hoofden.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance and submarines, QP 13, consisting of 12 larger and 4 smaller steamers under escort of 8 destroyers and escort vessels, was located in the evening about 120 miles northeast of the North Cape on westerly course.

Own Situation:

Destroyer SCHOEMANN and destroyers Z "24" and Z "25", operating as Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean under the command of Captain Schulze-Hinrichs, departed from Kirkenes at 1655 on 11 Apr. for an operation against QP 13. They returned unsuccessfully at 1715 on 12 Apr. Particulars have not yet been received.

Otherwise there is nothing to report.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

A total of 14 patrol boats is at present operating in the Skagerrak to prevent further attempts of the Norwegian steamers to break out of Goeteborg. Icebreaker EISBAER and steamer LEONHARDT finally succeeded in reaching Copenhagen. For the time being the Great Belt is closed to shipping traffic because there is danger of aerial mines. It will probably be open to shipping for daytime traffic starting on 13 Apr.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

A British vessel was located about 150 miles west of Porcupine Bank. Radio monitoring intercepted a report from the coast that the steamer QUEEN (2,592 GRT) is adrift 150 miles south of Nantucket. Signals are still coming through from the Dutch steamer OCANA evidently in connection with salvage operations. In the waters south of Cape Fear submarine warning signals were sent by the Panamanian tanker STANVAC MELBOURNE (10,444 GRT); also by the steamer MANGORE off Cape Lookout.

From West Indian waters reports on the sighting of submarines were intercepted originating 100 miles south of Haiti. Another report was intercepted on the torpedoing of the Panamanian tanker STANVAC CALCUTTA off the northeast coast of Brazil about 35 miles north of Almofala.

2. Own Situation:

In the course of the evening 3 submarines succeeded in making contact with QP 13. The convoy has apparently split up into several groups. So far no results have been reported.

Submarine U "203" (Lieutenant Muetzelburg) reported from the American coast that she succeeded in sinking 3 tankers and 1 steamer totaling 36,000 GRT off Cape Hatteras.

Detailed report in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

An enemy bomber formation under strong fighter escort approaching by way of Fort Philippe inflicted some damage in the Hazebrouck area. German fighters shot down 13 Spitfires and 1 bomber.

During the night 20 German planes dropped mines in the Thames River.

In the evening 82 enemy planes came over the Ruhr district, inflicting slight damage among others on industrial targets. 9 planes were shot down. In addition to this attack, the enemy sent 12 planes into Belgium, 54 into western France, 15 into the Netherlands, and 3 into Norway.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The attacks against Valletta and airfields on Malta are continuing. Additional damage was inflicted on a merchant vessel, which caught fire.

The X Air Corps reported an attack on the terminal of the desert railroad near Capuzzo. Results were not observed. The Italian Air Force reports a successful attack against the British steamer EGYPT in the Alexandria area.

3. Eastern Front:

In the evening reconnaissance planes made an unsuccessful attack against QP 13 northeast of the North Cape. 8 Ju 87's made early morning attacks on ships and quays in Murmansk. Good results were observed. On 11 Apr. 2 small steamers were damaged during an attack on Tuapse.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Intelligence information from Spain reveals that the light cruiser reported in dock is the PENELOPE. Therefore intelligence believes it possible that the cruiser earlier reported approaching from the west was the PENELOPE which, coming from Malta, had gotten too far to the westward due to low visibility. Confirming this theory is the extensive bomb damage mentioned.

On 11 Apr. submarines were sighted and located east of Pantellaria, off Lampedusa, and southwest of Pantellaria.

According to radio monitoring a British plane from an unknown position, presumably somewhere in the Eastern Mediterranean, sighted 1 cruiser

and 1 merchant ship. 3 hours later another plane located 1 destroyer and 1 merchant ship about 150 miles west of Crete.

No other information was received on shipping traffic in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean on 12 Apr. An agent report from Alexandria claims that light surface vessels and 4 submarines of De Gaulle's navy have arrived in that port. Another source is also said to have confirmed the presence of torpedo carriers in the Eastern Mediterranean, flying the De Gaulle flag.

2. Own Situation:

During the night of 11 Apr. 6 boats of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla carried out a mining operation according to plans. Another mission is planned for the following night.

3. Situation Italy:

Nothing to report.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

According to plans; no special events; 4 steamers are en route to Tripoli.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Enemy Situation:

At 1038 one submarine was reported in the bay off Herakleion, at 1235 off Cape Stavros, and at 1430 about 40 miles east of Suda Bay.

Own Situation:

Nothing to report.

Black Sea:

According to air reconnaissance there was only limited traffic of smaller vessels in the area between Sevastopol and Kerch. Radio monitoring disclosed the whereabouts of the following naval forces: In the Sevastopol area as far as the southern coast of the Crimea and to the south of it 4 destroyers; in the central part of the Black Sea several destroyers and 1 submarine; at the central part of the east coast cruiser "D" with 1 torpedo boat, 1 flotilla leader, and 1 destroyer; in the southeastern part of the Black Sea 3 destroyers and 2 submarines. Messages from 2 other submarines were also intercepted, positions unknown.

A belated evaluation of photographic reconnaissance of 11 Apr. shows the following:

Tuapse: KAGANOVICH, 1 destroyer, 7 submarines, 2 mine sweepers, 2 floating cranes, and merchant ships. There is evidence of much bomb damage on the main pier and the quays.

Poti: 1 battleship, 1 heavy cruiser in dock, the battleship KOMINTERN, 1 destroyer in dock, 3 destroyers, 15 submarines, 5 torpedo boats, 1 mine sweeper, 17 PT boats, 2 floating docks, 4 cranes, 1 merchant ship

of 7,000 GRT, 2 smaller merchant ships, and 20 smaller vessels.

Batum: (Visual reconnaissance): 1 heavy cruiser of the MOLOTOV class, 2 destroyers, 3 destroyers under construction, 2 PT boats, 1 auxiliary warship, and 6 merchant ships.

The new distribution appears to be the result of the air attacks against Novorossisk and Tuapse on 10 and 11 Apr. which led to the transfer of the fleet and merchant ships to Batum and Poti. There are also fewer submarines at Tuapse now. It looks as if the submarines there were not in a state of readiness, because repair ships and cranes are lying alongside. It seems that Poti is now the main submarine base and Ochemchiri the secondary base, where 7 submarines and 2 steamers were sighted.

Own Situation:

Unchanged.

The Army Quartermaster General released hospital ship ROMANIA in accordance with the request made by Group South. The Quartermaster General asks Group South to take the necessary steps so that 2 hospital ships will be made available the very moment the naval warfare situation permits. (See Telegram 1415.)

Situation France:

From the study of the French Air Force made by the German Armistice Commission, France as of 1 Apr. 1942 it appears that employment of the French Air Force on the side of the Axis powers (e.g., for the defense of Tunisia) depends upon the extent to which existing shortcomings can be eliminated under German direction. If this can be done successfully, the French Air Force can be considered a valuable addition to Axis warfare.

Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XVI.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

The Naval Attache, Tokyo transmitted the following information of the Japanese Naval Staff:

In the course of a Japanese air attack on Colombo, 3 destroyers and 30 larger steamers were in the harbor, all of which were severely damaged. Targets on land were also attacked. British attempts to counterattack the Japanese fleet forces with strong air forces were recognized in time and prevented by carrier planes. In the course of aerial combat 100 miles south of Colombo the following were shot down: 10 Swordfishes, 1 Albacore, 19 Spitfires, 27 Hurricanes, and 1 Defiant, and in another area 2 flying boats. Reconnaissance planes discovered 2 unaccompanied heavy British cruisers on a southerly course about 250 miles south of Colombo. 54 carrier dive bombers attacked with 250 kg. bombs. 47 hits were counted, and both cruisers sank immediately, while none of the Japanese planes were lost in this particular engagement. 1 Japanese pursuit plane and 4 dive bombers were lost in the course of the other operations.

Carrier planes carried out a daylight raid on Trincomali. No detailed reports were as yet received. It was learned that the report announcing the sinking of the EMERALD and the BIRMINGHAM-class

cruiser was a mistake.

During March the Japanese Navy sank a total of 50 ships amounting to 215,000 GRT. Of this figure 7 ships totalling 50,000 GRT were sunk by submarines, 29 ships totalling 126,000 GRT by the Air Force, 16 ships totalling 39,000 GRT by other means. 14 ships totalling 17,000 GRT were seized.

Further parts of the report concerning the organization of the Japanese Navy are of particular interest from the standpoint of command organization. Operational command is in the hands of the Commander in Chief of the Fleet, who is the highest naval commander. All shore stations are set up for service to the fleet. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division is being informed.

Copies of the attache report were sent to the Fuehrer's adjutant and to the naval liaison officers attached to the Armed Forces High Command, the Army High Command, and the Air Force as per 1/Skl I a 7140/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

For report drawn up on 11 Apr. by the Japanese liaison officer attached to the Naval Staff on the employment of Japanese naval vessels against mine fields, and for his report on the organization of the Japanese Fleet Command see 1/Skl 8542/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

In this sector there was only local combat activity of little importance. Most of the ice has broken up along the Donets and is drifting down the river. The plains are beginning to be flooded.

Central Army Group:

There is heavy fighting southwest of Sukhinichi. Fomina changed hands again and fell into German hands. North of Medvyenka contact was established with the Haase group which is moving back into the area east of Roslavl. In the Ugra Valley, northwest of Yukhnov, the enemy tried hard to penetrate our positions. So far the concentration of all available German troops was able to repulse these attempts. The enemy's attack in the area near Gzhatsk and Rzhev remained unsuccessful.

Northern Army Group:

The situation near Kholm remains undecided. Fighting continues near Demyansk. The center of the Von Seydlitz group employing shock troops is pushing forward in the direction of the Lovat. Fighting is going on at Maluksa.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Attacks by enemy assault troops against the southern flank of the mountain division were repulsed.

3. North Africa:

Reconnaissance and artillery activity on both sides.

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13 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

According to Reuter, Labor Minister Bevin declared in his speech in Yorkshire that the war has reached a turning point. Great Britain will soon change from the defensive to the offensive.

According to the press revised plans for Allied military operations in the spring and summer have been coordinated in the conference of Churchill, Marshall, and Hopkins. The New York Times writes that at present Germany is weaker than Japan, that Germany is using her last reserves in manpower and oil, and that for the first time she has to be continuously on guard against surprise attacks on Norway, France, and the Dutch harbors. It is assumed that the strategists in London are paying more attention to Germany than to Japan.

U.S.A.:

The U.S. Government is preparing a statement which is to point out to Hungary and Rumania that their cooperation with the German Government might be regarded as hostile to the U.S.

Japan:

A Japanese Embassy spokesman in Shanghai stated in connection with Russo-Japanese relations that everything Japan is doing today is merely the beginning of a great movement to create a new world civilization by means of harmonious fusion of the spiritual Asiatic and the material European civilization. Japan is stepping up her radio propaganda beamed at India. Theme: Invitation for peaceful cooperation in a Greater Asiatic community of nations after the British yoke has been shaken off. The Delhi radio replied that Japanese liberation would in reality mean nothing but exploitation: In spite of previous mutual assurances, Japan is already proceeding to make Japanese colonies out of Malaya, the Dutch West Indies, and Burma.

It is claimed that Japan is setting up a 5-year-plan for North China to develop heavy industry in East Asia.

France:

The Riom trial will be adjourned for some time. The court is to be authorized to extend the scope of indictment, presumably to the question of war guilt.

The Chief of Naval Staff is at Fuehrer Headquarters to report to the Fuehrer.

Transcript as per 1/Skl Ib 785/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

Situation 13 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Naval intelligence has gathered information from various reliable sources on specialized British troops, so-called "Commandos". Summary in News Analysis No. 17 of the Naval Staff, Foreign Navies Branch.

There are no other reports on the enemy situation.

2. Own Situation:

Ships "28" and "10" were notified that the Naval Staff assumes that by 14 Apr. at the latest ship "28" will replenish her supplies as planned by the respective command. Radiogram 1219 instructed ship "10" to proceed to the Indian Ocean in accordance with instructions of 17 Mar. after receipt of supplies. She was reminded at the same time of the order of 2 Apr. to attack enemy ships only if she can do so without giving away her presence, on account of the operations of ship "28".

Necessary instructions were sent to the Naval Attache, Tokyo giving him information on route "Gelb", and letting him know that the Naval Staff assumes that Etappe Tokyo will take over the command of the TANNENFELS as of 30 Apr. Copy as per 1/Skl I k 8632/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

All ships in foreign waters were informed by Radiograms 1216, 1308, and 1936 that the RIO GRANDE arrived in Bordeaux on 10 Apr. Radiogram 1541 carried information on the enemy situation.

The German Naval Command, Italy was notified that the Naval Staff informed the Italian Admiral attached to the Naval Staff about the mine danger in the waters around Capetown, and was instructed to take the necessary steps with the Italian Naval Staff and to emphasize that the mine situation be kept secret.

Learning of Italian plans to communicate with the British Government and to ask whether the proposed route to Capetown is safe, the German Naval Staff earnestly warned the Italians not to put in at Capetown because Naval Staff believes that the British directive to put in at Capetown constitutes an attempt to test hitherto untried routes for mines at the expense of an Italian ship. Furthermore the Italians are not in a position to check on British assurances.

For copy of this telegram see 1/Skl I k 8617 and 8667 in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance revealed the following: A northeastbound convoy of 17 steamers accompanied by 2 destroyers 50 miles northwest of Clifden; west of the Isle of Man a southbound convoy consisting of 3 steamers accompanied by 2 escort vessels; in the

northern approach to the North Channel a southeastbound convoy of 7 steamers with 1 escort vessel; in the Irish Sea much traffic of single ships; between 2030 and 2115 11 single ships and 3 escort vessels were sighted sailing on various courses.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The JAGUAR has left La Pallice to report to the Torpedo Inspectorate in Germany. She arrived in Brest at 2100.

Channel Coast:

The tanker MEMELLAND in the outer harbor of Boulogne was damaged so severely by an act of sabotage that she had to be beached Pieces of highly magnetized metal were found near the damaged parts.

The 3rd Air Force submitted a request to the Commander in Chief, Air that permission be granted to drop aerial mines on the convoy routes along the east coast between 53° 15' N and 53° 45' N (see War Diary 9 Apr.). In accordance with the viewpoint held by Group West and the Commander, Torpedo Boats, the Naval Staff informed the Air Force Operations Staff that the Naval Staff favors the use of aerial mines. It is believed that blue, red, yellow, and above all green-blue aerial mines by daylight will be especially effective on the mentioned convoy route marked by buoys. However, the use of green mines will be out of the question because German PT boats will continue to operate in this area. For copy see telegram 1/Skl 8385/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II b.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance in the morning 1 transport ship of 18,000 GRT was approaching the harbor of Aberdeen from the east. Numerous convoys were sighted between Flamborough Head and the Thames River.

Own Situation:

During the night of 12 Apr. the 1st Mine Sweeper Flotilla and the 8th Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla carried out a mining operation in the Hoofden according to plan.

Due to the weather situation attempts to salvage tanker EUROSEE and mine-detonating vessel "10" were unsuccessful so far. Tankers were sent out to unload the EUROSEE.

Enemy planes were very active over the Frisian Islands and around Heligoland during the night of 13 Apr. This is evidently a continuation of the aerial mine offensive.

The 10th transport group Hamburg-Oslo is to leave port on 14 Apr.

and sail through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal and the Great Belt. The steamers GNEISENAU and POTSDAM are also to sail by way of the Baltic Sea when they return from Oslo.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Submarines and air reconnaissance located the westbound convoy (QP 13) about 140 miles northwest of the North Cape at 0935. The convoy consists of 12 steamers and 7 or 8 destroyers.

Own Situation:

Planes and submarines maintained contact with QP 13 until evening. The heavy sea interfered with the attack of the submarines, but nevertheless both submarines and planes scored some successes.

Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean, which left Kirkenes at 0630 for another attempt to attack the convoy, received orders by the Admiral, Arctic Ocean to put in at La Fjord on account of the weather.

On 12 Apr. the commander of the destroyer group broke off the operation of Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean on his own initiative because of poor visibility due to snowstorms, ice formation on the guns, and the oil situation. According to the plans of Admiral, Arctic Ocean the operation was to be broken off only if air reconnaissance failed to show any results by the time darkness set in. Therefore Group North attempted to clarify the following questions: First, whether there were provisions in the operations order of Admiral, Arctic Ocean giving the commander of the flotilla authority to suspend the operation. Second: What were the chances for the success of the operation. The reply of the Admiral, Arctic Ocean indicates that the commander of the destroyer group was not quite clear about the interpretation of the provisions covering conditions for breaking off the operation. Furthermore the chances of finding the enemy were very slim since, due to poor visibility, the 3 destroyers had to proceed in close formation. On top of all this, report on the action of the destroyer group failed to reach the Admiral, Arctic Ocean. Therefore Group North fully agrees that the operation should not be repeated on 13 Apr. The operation would be bound to fail again because of the bad weather, not to mention the oil situation. Moreover, there are better chances for a successful attack on PQ 14 during its passage south of Bear Island.

For copy of information sent to the Naval Staff see Telegrams 0130, 0139, 1630, and 1814.

The Naval Staff regrets the unsuccessful mission particularly in view of the wasted fuel oil.

Group North instructed the Commanding Admiral, Battleships to employ all ship planes at his disposal for a continuous anti-submarine patrol covering all Trondheim approaches and for combat against armed motor fishing smacks which lately have made their appearance repeatedly. See Telegram 1641.

Naval Staff welcomes this measure.

Off Petsamo Fjord German shore batteries opened fire on an enemy submarine, apparently a mine layer, but failed to score any hits.

Reports were received that enemy planes had been active over Petsamo, Kirkenes, and Vardoe on 11 Apr. and during the night of 11 Apr. Bombs were dropped on the airfield at Kirkenes, aerial torpedoes with parachutes were dropped on Vardoe, and Petsamo was bombed without damage. In the course of 12 Apr. enemy planes were active over Trondheim, Stavanger, and Lister. No bombs were dropped.

The situation of steamer SIMON VON UTRECHT remains unchanged. On 13 Apr. an explosion slightly damaged 2 hangars in Oslo, evidently an act of sabotage.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

12 vessels are stationed along the patrol line in the Skagerrak, and 2 vessels are guarding the mine field gap at Kristiansand South.

Furlough transports Hirtshals-Kristiansand South have been stopped. The transports Aalborg-Oslo are being resumed with the LAUTERFELS and the WURI as well as escort vessel BATAVIA III.

Group North asks the 5th Air Force and the Commanding General, Air Force Group Command, Central Area to keep about 1 or 2 flights of fighter planes in the area of Aalborg and Roehn between 15 and 25 Apr., because important Armed Forces transports and mining operations are planned in the Skagerrak for this period. See Telegram 1608.

Naval Staff asks the Air Force Operations Staff to instruct the Air Force units operating in the Gulf of Finland to participate in reconnaissance and combat duties in the area of the Gulf of Finland, and to keep in close contact with Group North in carrying out these duties particularly as regards the necessary reconnaissance operations.

For copy of this memorandum see 1/Skl 8371/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

Instructions were sent to Group North with regard to the use of Finnish quadrant maps east of 21° E in cooperation with Finland as per 1/Skl 14 300 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

V. Merchant Shipping:

Survey of the Armed Forces High Command (Foreign Intelligence Section) concerning the activities of the Etappe organization of the Navy, including all missions carried out by blockade-runners, replenishment of supplies on the high sea, and the supply of submarines. See 1/Skl 8629/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IX.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

The American steamer DELVALLE (5032 GRT), which had reported sighting a periscope south of Haiti on 11 Apr. sent out a call for help from a position southeast of Windward Passage. This seems to indicate that in the meantime the ship was torpedoed. The Nor-

wegian steamer BALKIS (2,161 GRT) was sunk at 02° 30' S, 37° 00' W.

2. Own Situation:

At 0505 a submarine sank the steamer EL OCCIDENTE of about 6,000 GRT travelling with convoy QP 13 in quadrant AC 4662. For a while contact was lost with the convoy but was re-established at 0817 and maintained until approximately 1100. Submarine U "435" scored a finishing shot on a steamer of about 6,000 GRT which had been damaged by the Air Force. The submarine was damaged by depth charges and will proceed to Kirkenes. If contact with QP 13 cannot be re-established, according to orders from Admiral Arctic Ocean, Group "Robbenschlag" is to break off the search for the convoy in such a way that the patrol line in quadrant AB 6361 - 6667 will be patrolled by 0800 on 14 Apr. Group "Bums" is operating along patrol lines in quadrants AB 6691 - 6937. (See Radiogram 2240.)

Air Commander, Lofoten was instructed to proceed with reconnaissance for PQ 14.

For supplementary report on the situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Fighter bombers carried out a daylight attack against Portland harbor; effect of bombs was observed by the planes. 42 German planes started out on night operations, 32 of which attacked Grimsby.

A small number of enemy planes came over the area Tondern-Jever-Emden. No bombs were dropped. Other weak enemy forces flew over occupied areas.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Due to the bad weather the attacks against Malta could not be resumed until dusk. During the day German planes escorted steamers travelling alone on the North African route.

3. Eastern Front:

At 1500 one tanker of 5,000 to 6,000 GRT was damaged during an attack on Tuapse.

Reconnaissance flights searching for PQ 14 brought no results. Between 0702 and 0943 44 Ju 88's under fighter cover attacked QP 13. 1 tanker (4,000 GRT) was reported sunk and 3 steamers of 5,000 and 6,000 GRT damaged. The attack was difficult because of the low clouds. 5 Ju 88's failed to return.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Photographic reconnaissance confirmed that there are no seaworthy ships left in Valletta harbor. Thus we have succeeded in

eliminating this harbor as a naval base.

Submarines were sighted near Pola, in the Strait of Otranto, north of Messina Strait, and off Cape Colonna.

Radio monitoring revealed that in the morning 1 steamer and 2 destroyers proceeded on northeasterly course 110 miles north of Marsa Matruh.

According to an Italian agent report it is planned to send supplies to Malta by single steamers escorted by planes from Gibraltar because convoys are unable to get through. The report also claims that the major part of the crews on French ships in Alexandria were won over to De Gaulle, and that plans are under way to transfer the vessels to Haifa because of possible air attacks.

On 15 and 18 Feb. according to an intelligence report Spanish agents of the Sabotage Section, Spain of the Armed Forces Intelligence Division caused the destruction of 1 PT boat and 1 Lockheed bomber and damaged 2 PT boats in Gibraltar. The casualties amounted to 21 killed and several injured.

2. Own Situation:

During the night of 12 Apr. in accordance with plans the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla carried out a mine-laying mission off Malta.

3. Situation Italy:

On 12 Apr. an enemy submarine made an unsuccessful attack against the tanker RODINE off Cephalonia and was successfully fought off by an Italian torpedo boat which located her by search receiver.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

An enemy submarine sank the steamer ATLAS off Benghazi in spite of the fact that she was sailing under strong escort (see War Diary 11 Apr.).

The 7th Transport Squadron consisting of 4 motor ships has put to sea according to plan escorted by 4 destroyers and 3 torpedo boats. The squadron should arrive in Tripoli in the morning of 15 Apr.

The steamers GIULIA and AMSTERDAM arrived in Tripoli in the morning. On her way to Tripoli the steamer WACHTFELS has put in at Trapani for a period of 24 hours because of engine trouble.

On 12 Apr. the steamer CAPO ARMA en route from Benghazi to Brindisi was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy torpedo planes.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Since 1 Dec. 1941 the Siena Squadron transported the following:

To Crete: 13,009 soldiers with equipment
1,323 vehicles
1,800 motorcycles
6,000 tons of supplies for the Armed Forces

From Crete: 5,400 men on furlough
30 vehicles
700 tons of supplies for the Armed Forces

Black Sea:

Nothing to report.

IX. Situation East Asia

Nothing to report.

X. Army Situation:

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Enemy attacks of battalion strength near Slavyansk and east of Kharkov were broken up.

Central Army Group:

Superior reinforced enemy forces again succeeded in taking Fomina. Northwest of Yukhnov the enemy's attack was unsuccessful. Due to the condition of the roads in the 4th Panzer Army sector all traffic has stopped there. In the sector of the 9th Army the enemy attacked the German Volga positions northwest of Rzhev. He succeeded in capturing a strong point. There is heavy fighting at the railroad near Mostovaya.

Northern Army Group:

Kholm was again under attack by strong enemy forces approaching from the east. The appearance of the German Air Force brought temporary relief. Enemy attacks in the Demyansk area were repulsed. Southeast of Staraya Russa the fighting continues at the Lovat. German troops were able to advance south of Maluksa.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

At the Svir front in the course of attacks east of Lake Ladoga the enemy lost 2,500 men out of 15 battalions. Off Seiskaari the ice is still 60 to 95 cm. thick, in the Kronstadt Bay 70 to 90 cm., and in the southern part of Lake Ladoga 115 cm.

In the southern part of the Litsa front there is lively, uninterrupted fighting activity.

3. North Africa:

In the morning 3 good-sized enemy forces attacked north of Bir Temrad. Artillery fire brought them to a halt. A German counter-attack succeeded.

The foundation of the railroad which is being extended from Capuzzo in the direction of Sollum has been completed as far as 48 km. west of Bardia.

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14 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Norway:

According to a Reuter statement the German Government has caused the Norwegian Government to approach church matters with more care.

France:

Laval had another lengthy discussion with Petain and Darlan. In connection with the resignation of the head of the French cabinet, a pronounced enemy of Laval, it is to be anticipated that the Vichy cabinet will be reorganized, in which case Laval may be expected to become a member.

Sumner Welles directed a note to the Vichy Government in reply to the French letter protesting the appointment of a U.S. consul-general in Brazzaville and declared that the U.S. Government maintains relations with the French citizens in actual control of the territories concerned.

Great Britain:

On 13 Apr. Churchill brushed aside the questions asked in the House of Commons without going into them to any great extent. With respect to the sinking of the British warships in the Indian Ocean, he confined himself to placing the facts before the House. He added that the happening has in no way shaken the confidence of the Admiralty in Admiral Somerville, because it is impossible to have all British ships protected by planes. This statement was subject to strong criticism. Churchill also stated that while General Gordon's report on the fall of Singapore had been received, it is not suitable for publication. Nor is it possible for him to promise a report on the fighting in Malaya any time soon. Before discussing the outcome of Cripps' mission in India, Churchill believes it advisable to await Cripps' return. Finally he made the announcement that Lord Louis Mountbatten is now heading the "Commandos", replacing Admiral Keyes, who has resigned.

After their return from Great Britain, Portuguese officers disclosed that a growing discontent is to be observed among large segments of the British population. Reports from other sources claim that wide circles no longer believe in an absolute British victory over Germany. Hope is held instead that by continuing the fighting a tolerable compromise can be reached. It is also claimed that the criticism of Churchill and Roosevelt is growing.

> In connection with this sort of reports the fact must not be overlooked that the strongest influence is still exerted by people who figure that with the overwhelming superiority of American equipment the Axis powers will eventually be beaten.

In commenting on the events in India, the British press regrets that negotiations were broken off but hopes that an agreement will be reached sooner or later. It is of special interest that the American press emphasizes strongly that the British India policy should not be criticized because Great Britain has given definite proof of her determination to solve the problem. The neutral press claims that the

negotiations failed because Great Britain tried in vain to use the Indian parties for her purposes. This statement does not appear quite logical since an agreement with only one party would not bring the problem any nearer to a solution than it is now, until Great Britain places the fate of India completely into the hands of the Indian people. This however would mean that the country would be split up into different sections, and other masters would take the place of the British.

Egypt:

Neutral diplomatic circles report that approximately 80 to 90% of the population is anti-British. However not too much significance should be attached to this statement because the majority of the people show no interest whatever in political affairs. It is said that a number of influential personalities are very much in favor of cooperating with Great Britain, and that the British Ambassador is still the most influential person in Egypt.

U.S.S.R.:

After his return from Moscow, former Ambassador Tatekawa gave a most favorable report regarding Russia's strength. In the battle which will decide the destiny of his country Stalin has the full support not only of the Party and the Red Army, but of the entire population as well. There seemed to be no signs of opposition or separatist tendencies. Lately Russia has obviously tried to take an objective view of the Japanese-American war and to give due credit to the Japanese victories. The Ambassador believes it unlikely that Russia would invade India. He also said that there would be no Russo-German peace because of the ardent patriotism of the Russian people. However in spite of all this it will still be possible to adhere to the Russo-Japanese neutrality pact without much difficulty.

It is quite possible that Mr. Tatekawa is sincere. It remains to be seen to what extent the fact that his views were given so much publicity fits into the well-known Japanese habit of camouflaging their policies.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Ordnance Division reported on a memorandum submitted by State Secretary Landfried to Minister Speer on alleged personnel mismanagement in naval installations, and on findings made by civilian authorities on similar conditions in the Torpedo Experimental Establishment. The Chief, Naval Ordnance Division proposed that the Commander in Chief, Navy take immediate steps to have the personnel situation in all naval installations investigated and that he get Minister Speer's approval so that the necessary instructions can be sent to Staatsrat Blohm. The Commander in Chief, Navy agrees to the proposal.

II. The Commander in Chief, Navy decides that documentary evidence as to the attitude of the Italian Minister Host Venturi, who is interfering with the construction program of both navies, be made available to the Fuehrer in anticipation of his conference with the Duce.

III. The Chief, Naval Staff announces that the Fuehrer has approved

the proposal that Rumanian soldiers be given artillery training on German guns in Rumania. However the Fuehrer is against turning these guns over to Rumania because it is anticipated that eventually there will be a need for them in the Crimea and in the eastern part of the Black Sea.

IV. The Commander in Chief, Navy also announced that the Fuehrer approves the sale of steamer SCHARNHORST to Japan.

The Fuehrer is greatly interested in the speedy transfer of 4 camouflaged PT boats through the Dardanelles to the Black Sea. Investigation by the Naval Construction Division is almost completed.

V. In accordance with the Fuehrer's directive the Chief, Naval Staff orders that all coastal units be given explicit instructions to fire at once at any suspicious vessels approaching the coast, without exchanging recognition signals, even if it means that German ships may be kept from entering at night.

It will be necessary for the Naval Staff to investigate the feasibility of such action with the coastal units concerned. The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff will draw up new rules and regulations on the exchange of recognition signals and submit the draft as soon as possible.

The Chief, Naval Staff orders furthermore that all coastal batteries receive instructions to make extensive use of starshells. He also emphasized that every effort must be made to continue with the construction of escort vessels in spite of the copper shortage. Ways and means must be found to permit the use of substitutes regardless of construction regulations, even if the life span of the engines is reduced hereby. The Commander in Chief, Navy orders that a report shall be made on the available quantities of copper in order to submit a request to the Fuehrer for special permission to buy copper on the black market to cover the demands of the Navy.

VI. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reported on the discussion of the organization of naval fortress brigades which took place at the Fuehrer conference. The Fuehrer requests merely that the Navy occupy and take over the defense of the said 6 islands off the Atlantic coast so as to make the Army divisions there available for other duties. The Navy is to carry out these measures within the existing organizational set-up. In addition to the formations required for coastal defense it will only be necessary to set up mobile shock troops to combat the enemy in the event that he succeeds in effecting a landing. A new directive amended accordingly will be issued by the Armed Forces High Command. In this connection the Fuehrer emphasized that the question of coastal defense is purely the responsibility of the Navy. Also Directive No. 40 is meant to assure a coordinated command for all branches of the Armed Forces in fighting off enemy landings.

> This explanation is particularly valuable and fully corroborates the interpretation of Directive No. 40 by Commander in Chief, Navy.

VII. The Chief, Naval Staff confirms the Naval Staff viewpoint that the number of planes proposed for the aircraft carrier is much too small and entirely inadequate particularly in view of the absence of torpedo planes. Therefore he requests that all necessary steps be taken to remedy this situation.

VIII. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reported on the following:

a. The order of the Air Force Operations Staff to the 1st Air Force (copy to the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff) with regard to the laying of mines in the shipping channel between Leningrand and Kronstadt. For copy of the order see Ob.d.L. Fuest. I a 6962/Gkdos. op I in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

b. Reports submitted by the German General, Rome and the Commanding General, South, Field Marshal Kesselring, dealing with Kesselring's conference with the Duce and General Cavallero on 11 and 12 Apr. On that occasion he informed the Duce and the General about the success of the German Air Force against Malta and his impressions of the situation in Africa, gained during his 2-day plane visit of 7 and 8 Apr.

For copy of the 3 reports see report 505/42 Gkdos. Chefs. of the General attached to the Italian Armed Forces; OB Sued 711/42 Gkdos. Chefs.; and OB Sued Ia 7110/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

IX. The operation planned by the Italians to capture Malta will be called "Herkules" in German communications. The Italians are using a different code word which they have not revealed to us.

X. The Commander in Chief, Navy announces that the Fuehrer has approved his proposal to detail a flag officer to the Fuehrer as a permanent representative of the Commander in Chief, Navy. Further instructions will follow.

The Naval Staff was especially pleased with this decision.

Special Items:

I. In view of the experience gained after the British attack on St. Nazaire, the Commander in Chief, Navy has issued the following order:

In the event that the Armed Forces High Command requests information or reports directly from a naval office, the information is to be submitted via the Naval Staff together with a copy of the request made by the Armed Forces High Command, in order to acquaint the Naval Staff with the matter. If the Armed Forces High Command requests that the report be submitted directly, a copy of the report should simultaneously be submitted to the Naval Staff.

The same holds true in matters involving intermediate naval offices (e.g., in regard to reports made by group commands concerning operational questions).

The same procedure is to be followed when orders and reports are issued by telegram.

II. For the purpose of gunnery training the following boats will be made available to the torpedo school:

Until 1 May torpedo boats "107", "108", "10", "14", "17", and JAGUAR

After 1 May torpedo boats "110", "111", MOEWE, GREIF, and

torpedo boats "10", "14", "108", and JAGUAR.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Fleet Branch leaves it up to the Commander, Torpedo Boats (Commander, Destroyers) to replace torpedo boats "10" and "14" with other boats of the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotillas.

Situation 14 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to information from a usually reliable source in Rio, the Naval Attache, Buenos Aires reports that British ships have received orders requesting their immediate return to Great Britain regardless of their state of loading. So far no information confirming this report is available in Buenos Aires.

The motive for such a measure is not yet clear.

South Atlantic:

On 10 Apr. the DIOMEDE accompanied by several merchant ships departed from Montevideo. The Naval Attache in Buenos Aires reports that the Soviet icebreaker MIKOYAN (2,300 GRT) arrived in Montevideo on 12 Apr. The ship is an armored auxiliary vessel of the Soviet Navy and is at present en route from Capetown to Chilean ports.

Indian Ocean:

According to radio monitoring an escort from a harbor at the southern coast of Australia was to meet the steamer QUEEN MARY on 27 Mar. and proceed with her to Sidney. This is additional proof that the rumors are unfounded which claim that this ship was sunk off the South American coast.

2. Own Situation:

On 13 Apr. the Japanese Naval Attache proposed the following zone of operations for a German auxiliary cruiser in the Indian Ocean: From 45° S, 60° E to 35° S, 60° E; 15° S, 85° E; 15° S, 90° E; 25° S, 110° E; to 45° S, 110° E.

The Japanese liaison officer was informed that the Naval Staff agrees with the proposal of the Japanese Admiralty. The Naval Staff asked to be informed as of what date a German auxiliary cruiser would be able to operate in this area. Until a reply is received the Naval Staff will adhere to the present agreement according to which German auxiliary cruisers will not operate north of 10° S, and east of 80° E. For copy of memorandum to the Japanese liaison officer see 1/Skl 8716/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Radiogram 1837 carried instructions to the TANNENFELS. After the supply operation she is to approach point "Rose" in such a way that she is there on 28 Apr. Strict observance of this date was emphasized

because it was reported to the Japanese Navy. The radiogram also included sailing instructions from point "Lilie" to route "Gelb" according to instructions from the Naval Attache, Tokyo, and the Japanese.

After it was established that the WARTENFELS which is lying in Madagascar is able to receive radio messages, she received instructions by Radiogram 2051 to keep definite radio reception schedules so that she can receive sailing orders and other instructions if necessary. She has coaled in the meantime. So far no agreement as to her sailing has been reached with the Japanese Navy.

Radiogram 1023 was sent to all ships in foreign waters informing them of the political situation in Bulgaria. Report on the enemy situation was sent out by Radiograms 1432, 1500, 1957, and 2106.

Radiogram 1957 was sent out with the following information: An Air Force estimate on the number of long-range enemy reconnaissance planes ready for operations overseas:

West Africa:	40 planes
St. Helena:	5 Catalinas
South Africa:	12 seaplanes and 30 wheeled planes
East Africa:	30 Marylands at Aden, 3 seaplanes at Mauritius
Australia:	20 Catalinas, 80 Hudsons and Blenheims
New Zealand:	5 Catalinas, 20 Hudsons

It is believed that Ascension Island as well serves as a base for Catalina flying boats. A formation of American long-range reconnaissance planes is expected to arrive in Port Elizabeth to safeguard the U.S. - Cape route. The location of Swedish ships travelling on the approved America route was given, as well as that of the Italian "Alfa" group.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The Commander in Chief, Air reports that effective immediately orders were given to dissolve Coastal Air Group 906. The flying personnel and equipment thus becoming available is to be used by the Air Force General attached to the Commander in Chief, Navy to bring up to strength Coastal Air Squadrons 1/406 and 1/906 (torpedo plane squadrons in Norway) under the command of the 5th Air Force.

This removes the last He 115 squadron from the West Area.

Group West is notified accordingly and it was pointed out that apart from these measures the Naval Staff has submitted a request to the Air Force Operations Staff that the reconnaissance forces of the Air Command

Atlantic Coast should be reinforced considerably.

Channel Coast:

Mine sweeper M "32" which was damaged when she hit a mine in quadrant AN 8778 is being towed in.

The JAGUAR has arrived in Brest.

The Commanding General, Armed Forces, West has informed Group West that Army Group D is considering the possibilities of long-range Army guns to support the mine-laying operations of the 3rd Air Force in the Thames estuary. Group West points out to the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West that while such bombardments ought to be under the jurisdiction of the Naval Group Command, this claim is not insisted on for the same reason that prompted the Navy to relinquish jurisdiction over the Army coastal batteries in July 1940. Group West asks that whenever plans are made for such bombardments, the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West and Army Group D inform them as soon as possible so that plans for naval operations may be timed accordingly.

> The Naval Staff believes that as a means of supporting mine warfare the use of each and every gun which will help to cause confusion among the enemy's forces in mined waters should be welcomed.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

During the night of 13 Apr. there was air activity over the Frisian Islands and over the area north of Heligoland as far as Westerland apparently in search of ships and for the purpose of laying mines.

Own Situation:

So far all attempts to salvage mine-detonating vessel "10" and tanker EUROSEE were without success. A diving-bell vessel was sent from Heligoland to Cuxhaven.

Convoy and mine-sweeping operations continued without incidents according to plans.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

At 1920 according to air reconnaissance QP 13, then consisting of 12 steamers, 1 destroyer, and 3 escort vessels, was sighted at 12° 40' E, 72° 50' N on course 250°.

At 0700 2 steamers, evidently parts of PQ 14, were sighted at 72° 13' N 02° 10' E on course 30°.

Submarines reported the following: At 1200 parts of QP 13 in quadrant AB 6570, at 1830 in quadrant AB 6460. At 1415 2 destroyers in quadrant AB 6489 on course 31°. It is possible that some of the escorting de-

stroyers have switched from QP 13 to PQ 14.

Own Situation:

Owing to the bad weather submarines and planes were unable to score additional successes against QP 13. The attacks are going to be concentrated against PQ 14 instead. Plans have been made that at 1700 on 15 Apr. 10 submarines will form a patrol line from quadrant AB 6331 to AB 6667.

Group North agrees with the critical opinion expressed by the Admiral, Arctic Ocean in his report concerning the unsuccessful operation of Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean on 12 Apr. The manner in which the destroyer group carried out the mission was contrary to the operational plan clearly defined by the Admiral and had to result in failure. (See Telegram 0031 in connection with Telegram 1630 of 13 Apr.)

The Commanding Admiral, Norway mentioned in his report on the situation that supply and escort operations proceeded according to plan. During the night of 13 Apr. enemy planes were active over the area of Stavanger and Lister, and during 13 Apr. over Trondheim and Stavanger by day. The Norwegian torpedo boat STEEG (198 GRT) was raised and brought to Bergen. Aided by favorable weather, salvage work on the SIMON VON UTRECHT is making good progress.

A transcript of a conference held at headquarters of the Mountain Corps, Norway on 5 Apr. for the purpose of increasing unloading facilities in the harbors of Kirkenes and Petsamo indicates that past transport delays in northern Norway, resulting in an inadequate flow of supplies, cannot be blamed on the lack of escort forces alone, a criticism which unfortunately has been made by the Commanding Admiral, Norway on several occasions. A part of the blame is to be attributed to the insufficient capacity of the harbors. Kirkenes will continue to carry most of the traffic because Petsamo cannot fully and safely be utilized for navigational reasons. It was found to be of vital necessity to transfer 5 landing barges to Kirkenes for lightering and to transport supplies to Petsamo. Building material for the expansion of the harbor is to be given the highest priority and is to be shipped to Kirkenes regardless of the need for it in other harbors.

Group North reports that the laying of barrage 17B is delayed because the available mine layers are needed for more important tasks in the Norway area and because the oil situation limits the use of destroyers and torpedo boats. The Group will try to have the ROLAND lay the mine barrage at the end of April unless the ice situation in the eastern Baltic Sea necessitates the immediate transfer of the ROLAND to Pillau to take on a load for the Gulf of Finland. Group North still insists on the LEIPZIG for the laying of mine field IX in the Skagerrak, otherwise it would be necessary to ship mines for barrage IX by steamer to Kristiansund South. The Commanding Admiral, Norway proposes to use the ROLAND to lay barrage 17B in the event his request for the additional 600 tons of fuel oil required to operate this vessel in northern Norway is rejected. (See Telegram 1820.)

In the meantime Naval Staff has made available the requested amount of fuel oil.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

12 patrol boats are still operating along the patrol line in the Skaggerrak and along the Swedish coast. Since the DICTO and the LIONEL are still reported to be in Goeteborg and only inadequate forces are available, Group North issues instructions to decrease patrol operations of the naval forces. The 6th PT Boat Flotilla in Stavanger is to keep half of the boats on 2-hour alert at all times to assure immediate readiness. There is no change in air reconnaissance. After arrival in Hirtshals gunboat K "1" is to remain stationed there. Whenever air reconnaissance flights have to be cancelled, the 6th PT Boat Flotilla and gunboat K "1" will go out on reconnaissance missions (see Telegram 1808). In accordance with the request by Group North, the Air Force Command, Central Area has transferred 1 squadron to Aalborg from 15 to 25 Apr. for the duration of the mining operation in the Skagerrak. In the evening the 10th transport group left Hamburg by way of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal en route to Oslo.

During the night of 13 Apr. enemy planes bombed and machine-gunned Tytersaari. Several explosions were heard near Juminda, evidently occurring when mines were detonated by ice. Effective as of 1200 on 14 Apr. Tytersaari will come under the command of the Admiral, Baltic States.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

A plane reported that it dropped depth charges on a submerging submarine 300 miles west of Brest and believes that 2 hits were scored. Submarines were reported sighted off the American coast east of Portland, southeast of Nantucket Island, 180 miles west of Bermuda, off Cape Lookout, and off the east coast of Florida. A submarine attack was reported off Cape Hatteras.

2. Own Situation:

The operation against QP 13 in the Arctic Ocean was broken off since chances for success were small in view of deteriorating weather conditions, strong enemy escort, and since PQ 14 was considered the main target. For more information see Situation Norway and the Supplement to the Submarine Situation. Submarine U "125" (Lt. Hardegen) reports from off the American coast a number of additional sinkings. This increases her over-all success on this operation to a total of 74,837 GRT. This outstanding achievement includes a large loaded tanker of the SHEHERAZADE type (12,500 GRT) over and above the 25,000 GRT already reported. The tanker exploded and ran aground. Its wreck was taken under gunfire and burst into flames. The following vessels are also included in the sinkings reported:

The loaded tankers ESSO BALBOA (9,554 GRT) and W.B. WALKER (10,468 GRT) as well as the steamer ESPARTA (3,365 GRT). The latter was sunk in shallow water and the parts which showed above the water were destroyed by gunfire. Finally the submarine sank 1 passenger freighter of 5,500 GRT and another loaded tanker of 8,000 GRT which was set aflame by gunfire. All in all this operation increased the score of the successful commander by 7 tankers, 2 steamers, and 1 submarine decoy. The submarine belonged to group "Paukenschlag" which was the first to operate

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along the coast of the U.S. On her return trip the submarine reported sighting several large tankers proceeding under destroyer escort with a speed of 12 knots, course 40°, about 120 miles southwest of Bermuda.

Another submarine reported that she sank the steamer EMPIRE PROGRESS (5,249 GRT).

For supplementary report on the situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the day fighter bombers attacked the harbor installations of Great Yarmouth and armed reconnaissance planes attacked Grimsby. 8 Spitfires were shot down. During the night of 14 Apr. 70 enemy planes flew over western Germany. The attacks concentrated on the Dortmund-Hagen area. It was reported that considerable damage was inflicted on industrial targets. 8 attacking planes were shot down. In addition to this attack 8 enemy planes flew over to Belgium and northern France, 32 over western France, 4 over the Netherlands, and 1 over Norway.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Bombers and pursuit planes escorting the 7th Transport Squadron shot down 8 enemy planes. Torpedo planes and bombers which took off from North Africa to attack the transport squadron were fought off effectively.

Single planes carried out nuisance raids against Malta airfields. Dive bombers attacked harbor installations at Valletta and the Rinella radio station; hits were observed.

3. Eastern Front:

No noteworthy reports were received from the Army fronts. For reconnaissance reports on the Arctic Ocean see Situation Norway. On this day no successes were scored against the 2 convoys.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

A joint attack by British torpedo and pursuit planes and bombers was carried out unsuccessfully against a part of the 7th Transport Squadron. British submarines were ordered to surface and proceed together for an operation against this convoy. According to radio monitoring a British reconnaissance plane located the convoy at 2230, evidently by means of radar.

In the morning air reconnaissance sighted 2 westbound PT boats about 80 miles west of Alexandria.

2. Own Situation:

The operation of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla was cancelled because of the weather.

3. Situation Italy:

During the night of 13 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The mission of the 7th Transport Squadron is being carried out according to plan. Enemy air attacks were successfully fought off. For details see Aerial Warfare. The squadron is expected to arrive in Tripoli in the morning of 15 Apr. During the night of 13 Apr. the steamer WACHTFELS left Trapani en route to Tripoli.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Nothing to report.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon of 13 Apr. radio monitoring located the battleship PARIZHSKAYA KOMUNA at sea, probably in the southeastern part of the Black Sea. Air reconnaissance revealed nothing new.

Own Situation:

In the morning the 4th Air Force reported an unsuccessful attack against a tanker and 4 patrol vessels off Novorossisk.

The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff announced that in accordance with the Fuehrer directive, the German batteries employed in the defense of the Rumanian coast will remain in German hands and will not be turned over to the Rumanians for the time being. (See Telegram 1235.)

Group South suggests that the present anti-aircraft defenses, if possible including reinforcements, be left in Constanta until the situation in the Crimea is under control. At present enemy air attacks against our supply transports are definitely to be expected (see Telegram 2030).

VIII. Situation East Asia:

An official announcement was made that on 9 Apr. U.S. troops capitulated on Bataan Peninsula. It is claimed that they number 70,000, including 3,000 Americans.

In the Irrawaddy Valley the Japanese are slowly advancing toward the north.

The Military Attache in Bangkog reports that the Japanese Army and Navy disagree with respect to future operations. He said that the Navy aims

at occupying Ceylon and the whole of Australia whereas, the Army does not want to extend its present front further than northern Australia. The Japanese have occupied Manus, the main island in the Admiralty group.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Central Army Group:

Partisans again blew up the railroad tracks between Bryansk and Roslavl. According to prisoner of war statements the enemy plans to establish contact with forces of the 1st Cavalry Corps south of Vyazma by way of the Roslavl-Yukhnov road. North of Fomina 2 German divisions are ready to launch an attack in a southerly direction. A German attack against parts of the 33rd Russian Army encircled southeast of Vyazma tightened the loop around the remaining troops. A breakout attempt failed. It was established beyond a doubt that incidents of cannibalism have occurred. North of Dorogobuzh German troops captured 26 localities. In the course of a mopping-up operation about 3,500 partisans were annihilated in the rear area of the 4th Army. Enemy attacks launched at various sectors of this Army Group were unsuccessful. Mud makes the supply roads almost completely impassable.

Northern Army Group:

A German assault west of Kholm was successful. Group Eicke launched an attack in the direction of the Lovat River. Group Seydlitz repulsed several attacks. Our front blocking the enemy north of Lake Ilmen was attacked from the east and the west. Near Velikie Luki the enemy attempted in vain to push forward. Near Soltsy the enemy was thrown back by 1 division supporting a parachute regiment. North of Ostrov an enemy attack was broken up. Only 1 of the 2 roads across the ice of Lake Ladoga is still usuable.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

At the Svir front the enemy's attacks continued unsuccessfully. At the southern wing of the Litsa front the enemy attacked again repeatedly and was repulsed after occasional heavy fighting.

3. North Africa:

In the area Tengeder-Segnali North several enemy detachments attempted to establish contact with the southern wing of the Panzer Army. Otherwise normal patrol and artillery activity.

The German Africa Corps has 266 serviceable tanks at its disposal, the Italian Motorized Corps 117.

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15 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

In connection with the French Cabinet changes the press reports that the new cabinet will be headed by Laval and that Darlan will give up his post as minister but will continue as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. No official announcement has been made as yet, evidently because Laval still requires some time to form his cabinet. Foreign commentaries which consider this change very significant do not fail to point to the pressure exerted by Germany.

> However it remains to be seen how matters really stand before it will be possible to judge what effect these changes will have on the war situation.

According to an official French announcement the Vichy government strongly rejected the American note with respect to the U.S. Consul General in Brazzaville. Another official announcement states that the Riom Trial is to be suspended until further notice and that the French Supreme Court has been charged with extending the scope of the indictment to include war guilt.

> If the trial is resumed at all, the Fuehrer's demand would thus be fulfilled.

Great Britain:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer reported on the country's finances and announced the probability of further cuts in consumer's goods and a considerable increase in consumer taxation. According to a neutral diplomatic source the food situation in London has become more acute. For details see Political Review 87, Paragraph 2. The people on the whole hope that Russia will be able to hold the Germans in check in 1942 until such time when the Allies and the Russians can jointly launch a major offensive in 1943. It is believed in London that the danger of heavy air attacks against Great Britain has passed because of the German Air Force losses in the Russian campaign.

Italy:

Reuter reports that the Fascist leader Farinacci has written an article extraordinarily outspoken against France, according to which Italy will insist upon all her claims against that country.

U.S.S.R.:

According to information from a Bulgarian diplomatic source the food situation in the Volga area represents a major problem.

Many thousands of interned Poles together with Polish divisions made up of former prisoners of war were removed to Iran. Totalling about 40,000 these Poles are said to have suffered considerably from lack of food.

Turkey:

Attacks of the Russian press in connection with the trial of the would-be assassin caused the Turkish Government to protest in Moscow. Since

the protest failed to produce the desired effect, the Turkish Telegraphic Agency is no longer permitted to release any Russian news except Russian army communiques.

Iran:

The government of Iran has broken off relations with Japan.

U.S. - Haiti:

The U.S. War Department announced an agreement with Haiti which aims at strengthening Haiti's defenses and makes provisions for the building of coastal fortifications with materials from the U.S. The U.S. Navy will take over the defense of the coast and will patrol the waters around the island. This agreement is setting a precedent for other American countries.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the Naval Staff request sent to the Air Force Operations Staff concerning regular air reconnaissance over coastal waters as per 1/Skl 8331/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. V. (See War Diary 10 Apr.)

II. The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff reports on a new kind of British balloon with long wire cables and explosive gas containers used to disrupt high-tension lines and to confuse radar detection at sea similarly to our own radar decoys (Nebelbolde). 2 radar sets for Yalta and Feodosiya are being sent to the Crimea today.

III. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff countered the charge proffered by the captain of ship "28" that the vessel is completely unsuitable for service as an auxiliary cruiser by pointing out that during the months the ship was being converted, the captain had full authority to get done anything he thought necessary. Moreover no suitable twin-screw ship had been available. The Naval Staff considers the criticism voiced by the captain justified as to the range, speed, and lack of engine reserve capacity. Due to the fact that she has to take on supplies too often, the ship is hardly suitable for long-range operations.

IV. The Chief, Naval Staff ordered that the question whether it would be feasible to protect the harbor of Heligoland by means of a boom defense should be examined. He also ordered that Borkum be refortified with the 2 - 28 cm. guns to be sent from Den Helder as soon as the 3 - 28 cm. barrels from the GNEISENAU have been installed there.

Special Items:

I. The Naval Staff believes that it is absolutely necessary to warn the population of the great danger resulting from the enemy's use of his very effective and excellently camouflaged explosives for sabotage purposes. Such explosives were used in the raid on St. Nazaire and in the case of tanker MEMELLAND at Boulogne. Following this first large-scale use of the explosive at St. Nazaire, the enemy probably assumes

that we are now aware of this special weapon, and therefore he will permit acts of sabotage with smuggled-in material of this type.

For copy of memorandum to the Armed Forces High Command, Intelligence Division see 1/Skl I a 8848/42 Gkdos. in reference file "British Landing at St. Nazaire on 28 Mar. 1942".

II. Conference of the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff with Ambassador Ritter on 14 Apr.

1. The Ambassador said that the peace rumors spreading from Tokyo lately are based exclusively on conjectures made within Japanese naval circles. The government and the Army have no part therein. The Ambassador pointed out that Army authorities believe it will take until late summer at least before a clear picture can be gained of the Russian campaign. Therefore it is to be assumed that no Japanese action is contemplated prior to September or October.

2. The Fuehrer gave Ambassador Oshima detailed information regarding our future plans. It is to be expected that the Ambassador will pass this information on to Tokyo. Therefore it will become necessary for the authorities to give this information to Admiral Nomura and Colonel Banzai as well. These two have long tried to obtain this information.

3. During the discussion of the policy of the Iberian Republics the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff suggested that a proposal be made to the Spanish Government to close Cape Verde Islands ports to all belligerents.

4. The Ambassador takes the following view of the rather obscure situation in South Africa: It appears to him that Smuts' policy is definitely aiming at a completely independent South African Republic which would doubtlessly be interested in acquiring neighboring territory such as Portuguese East Africa, for the purpose of uniting all of South Africa under its leadership.

5. While the Foreign Office believes it to be a fact that Russo-British relations have cooled off considerably, it is not possible at this time to foresee the consequences of this situation.

The Ambassador's interpretation of the British domestic situation and Anglo-American relations conforms to the information known to the Naval Staff. If the Russian conflict ends in a German victory Great Britain would definitely feel left alone, while the U.S. would be less affected.

The Ambassador's statement failed to reveal whether this feeling might be strong enough to have practical consequences regarding the termination of the war.

6. The visit of the Bulgarian king to the Fuehrer had no special political or military motives; nor did the decoration of Horthy have any deeper significance.

7. Reporting on Turkey the Ambassador said that Von Papen is of the impression that Turkey unmistakably is trying to establish closer relations with us. Our offer to supply 150,000,000 RM worth of war materials to Turkey is in line with this tendency. Von Papen mentioned to the Fuehrer only the delivery of PT boats. Whereupon Ambassador Ritter informed Papen that delivery of naval vessels to Turkey will be considered only if at the same time an equal number of German naval

vessels will be permitted to slip through into the Black Sea.

8. In connection with the order issued by the German Foreign Minister the topic discussed next was the question of reports which the Armed Forces attaches are turning in. This order has already led to very disagreeable situations in various places. (The charge d'affaires have tried to claim control over the attache reports in the presence of the head of the mission.) Ambassador Ritter will discuss the matter with the Foreign Minister.

9. The Ambassador revealed that Field Marshal Keitel's visit to Budapest was successful inasmuch as Hungary will provide 12 divisions against Russia, 6 of which are to be employed at the Eastern Front and 6 in the rear area for the purpose of fighting partisans.

The Foreign Office believes that Tatekawa's reports concerning the strength of Russia's position are incorrect. Ambassador Ott has been instructed to emphasize to Foreign Minister Togo the harm which may result from such public statements.

Ambassador Ritter's interpretation of conditions and of the general attitude in Egypt, as well as of the importance of the Arab problem, which is not acute at the moment, coincides with the information received by the Naval Staff. In view of the unclarified relations with France, the question of Greater Syria is not yet ripe for settlement. For the time being it is not possible to estimate the significance of Laval's appointment as Prime Minister. Ambassador Ritter does not believe that this appointment was the result of particular pressure on the part of Germany.

Situation 15 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

South Atlantic:

On 13 Apr. the MEMPHIS and destroyer WINSLOW arrived in Montevideo. According to press reports the DIOMEDE returned there on the same day.

Pacific Ocean:

According to information from the Attache in Tokyo, the fact that the Russian icebreaker was located indicates that Vladivostok has been free of ice since 23 Mar.

Indian Ocean:

For summary of reports on Madagascar and Mozambique see News Analysis No. 15/42 Naval Staff, Intelligence Division, Foreign Navies Branch.

2. Own Situation:

The Naval Attache, Madrid reports that the auxiliary sailing vessel HALCON arrived in Santa Cruz on Tenerife Island on 14 Apr. The vessel left the La Plata estuary in the beginning of February with 4 persons aboard who were returning from Uruguay, among them 1 member of

the SPEE crew. No vessel was sighted throughout the voyage.

See telegram 1616 for report of the Hapag representative in Montevideo. concerning the TACOMA crew.

Radiogram 1647 carried instructions to ship "10" concerning orders to the REGENSBURG and the TANNENFELS for replenishment of supplies on 21 Apr., and for arrival of the TANNENFELS at point 1, route "Gelb" on 28 Apr.

Radiogram 2041 carried instructions to the TANNENFELS and the REGENSBURG to the effect that the captain of the TANNENFELS is to be in command while the ships are taking on supplies and gave directions to be followed in case the weather is unfavorable at the rendezvous point.

In accordance with a Japanese Navy request to inform them in time as to when point 1 on route "Gelb" will be passed, the Naval Attache, Tokyo was informed of the instructions sent to the TANNENFELS and the REGENSBURG. Route "Gelb" (through the Strait of Sunda to Japan) was fixed by the Attache in Tokyo together with the Japanese Navy and goes by way of: 24° 00' S, 99° 00' E; Sunda Strait; 09° 15' N, 110° 30' E; 20° 50' N, 120° 00' E; 26° 00' N, 128° 40' E; 34° 00' N, 139° 50' E.

For copies of telegrams from and to the Naval Attache in Tokyo see 1/Skl 7165/42, 8451/42, and 8614/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Radiogram 1208 carried instruction to all ships in foreign waters on Argentina's political and economic situation and her relations with Germany. Radiograms 1559 and 1932 carried information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to an intelligence report members of the crew of a British steamer revealed that the Gibraltar convoys sail approximately along the 15th meridian West. On 14 Apr. a German submarine reported 5 to 10 southbound steamers in quadrant BE 5584, which confirms this information.

Off Land's End air reconnaissance sighted 1 southbound convoy in the morning. It consisted of 16 steamers and 2 escort vessels. In the afternoon a westbound convoy was sighted there consisting of 12 steamers, 1 cruiser, and 3 escort vessels. In the North Channel 5 northbound and 14 southbound steamers were sighted, and in the Irish Sea 8 other southeastbound ships.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Mine sweeper M "4445" capsized in quadrant BE 6852 when her coal cargo shifted.

Group West issued sailing orders for the DRESDEN according to which she is to sail on 16 Apr.

The Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff issued new instructions

regarding the occupation of the 6 islands off the Atlantic Coast, cancelling the organization of naval fortress brigades previously ordered. This new order is in accordance with the Fuehrer's decision made during his conference with the Commander in Chief, Navy on 13 Mar. For copy see 1/Skl 8897/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

Channel Coast:

The JAGUAR has arrived in Cherbourg. During the night of 14 Apr. enemy planes attacked Le Havre. Mine sweepers M "4603" and M "3810" were sunk by direct hits. 2 enemy planes were shot down. In the afternoon enemy planes attacked Cherbourg, inflicting damage only on installations. 1 enemy plane was shot down over Zeebrugge and Saint Malo in the course of other enemy attacks during the night.

Special Items:

Group West replied to a question brought up by a number of headquarters. They wondered whether and to what extent conclusions might be drawn from the enemy's mining activity off the West Area coasts with respect to the enemy's chances to land or his plans to attempt a landing. Group West replied to Army Group D, and to the 3rd Air Force by giving an account of enemy mine activities, types of mines used, and the areas selected for mining, which activities all seemed to be directed against our supply and submarine traffic. From these premises, however, no conclusions positive or negative were derived. Group West pointed out that if we are alert at all, flanking mine fields would not remain undetected; these are a distinct sign of imminent landing operations since they have to be thrown shortly before the start of the operation and perpendicular to the coast line to protect the landing area.

Since the enemy is using ground mines the Naval Staff concludes that the enemy is not planning any large-scale operation involving a landing fleet in the heavily mined areas throughout the Channel and off the submarine bases.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air Force radio-intercept service located 4 convoys between Lowestoft and the mouth of the Thames.

Photographic reconnaissance at 1235 established beyond doubt that there were no heavy ships or aircraft carriers in Scapa Flow. While it is possible that heavy formations may be at sea or are lying in other Scottish bays, it is not unlikely that additional battleships and carriers have been transfer ed from home waters to the Indian Ocean.

At 1235 1 battleship escorted by 4 destroyers was sighted 60 miles west of Scapa Flow. According to a plane report she seems to belong to the NORTH CAROLINA class. If this is correct, it would be the first time that an American battleship has been sighted in the waters around the British Isles, possibly a replacement for British ships transferred to India.

The following ships were identified in Scapa Flow: 1 cruiser, 41

steamers, 2 tankers, and 6 destroyers. There were 5 steamers and 1 cruiser, all westbound, in Pentland Firth. 1 cruiser was sailing from Firth of Moray in direction of Pentland Firth.

Own Situation:

The mine-layer group consisting of ULM and ROLAND, together with the Dutch gunboat K "1", are transferring to Norway. At 0300 the steamer STOCKHOLM proceeding in convoy was damaged when she hit a mine and was towed into Den Helder. Ground mines were swept off Ameland, Texel, Borkum, and Wangeroog. 1 motor fishing boat sank north of Heligoland as a result of a ground mine exploding in the drag-net. Near the damaged tanker EUROSEE aerial mines were seen dropped on route "Rot". Enemy planes bombed the tanker unsuccessfully. Enemy air activity over the German Bight during the night of 14 Apr. indicates that the aerial mine offensive is being continued.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance and submarines located PQ 14 in an area approximately 260 to 280 miles northwest of the North Cape. At 1000 the position was 73° 14' N, 00° 09' E on course east-northeast. The convoy consisted of 10 steamers, 1 battleship, 1 cruiser, and 7 destroyers. At 1946 air reconnaissance sighted the convoy consisting of 8 steamers, 1 cruiser, 6 destroyers, and 2 escort vessels 60 miles southwest of Bear Island. Planes kept contact with the convoy until 1946, submarines until after midnight.

> Already several days ago Swedish press reports hinted that this convoy would be accompanied by a particularly strong escort.

Reconnaissance reports of 14 Apr. of the Naval Air Command, North (West) reveal subsequently that at 1920 QP 13 included 12 merchant ships which were proceeding in close formation and in double line. No trailing or damaged ships were sighted. It was reported that the escorting forces included presumably 1 heavy cruiser, as well as 1 destroyer and 2 escort vessels. There was a brief engagement with an escorting flying boat of the Catalina type.

16 miles southwest of Vardoe a German convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by a submarine.

Based on information from a British diplomatic source, a Swedish intelligence report on 14 Apr. revealed that Great Britain is making plans for a nuisance raid on an island at the west coast of Norway. (The name begins with Hin...) The raid is to be similar to those in December 1941. The U.S. is urging that extensive naval bases be set up in the North Cape area to guarantee the security of the Murmansk transports, similar to the British Murmansk action in 1918. Stockholm British circles are very disgusted about the recent successful German attacks on PQ 13. They are saying that a new convoy which will be organized in Canada within the next few days is certain to arrive in Murmansk. This seems to indicate that convoy escorts will be considerably reinforced.

Mention was also made of imminent attacks in the West, in which connection Holland, Belgium, and northern France were mentioned.

Own Situation:

In his report on the situation the Commanding Admiral, Norway stated that convoy and supply operations proceeded according to plan. A good-sized landslide destroyed the Hommelvik quay installations in the Trondheim Fjord whereby the steamer ALUDRA was damaged. Oslo Fjord is again being patrolled by a harbor patrol flotilla. During the day and night of 14 Apr. enemy planes were active over Trondheim, Lister, and Kristiansand South. Damage was slight. One American Chesapeake-type plane crashed.

Off Vardoe an enemy submarine was chased and attacked with 22 depth charges. A small oil patch was seen, but the submarine was not located. Salvage work on the steamer SIMON VON UTRECHT is making good progress.

Operation against PQ 14:

On the basis of location reports by the contacting plane and by 3 submarines of the patrol line, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean has shifted the submarine line east to 15° E, where the boats are supposed to be by 2340.

In the report on the situation of 1651, Group North, relying on effective air reconnaissance, proposed to shorten the submarine patrol line and instead to echelon it more deeply. If the presence of a battle cruiser is confirmed, Group North believes that PQ 14 must be carrying very valuable cargo. If this is true the convoy may also include an aircraft carrier. Group North advises the use of destroyers only against convoy parts inadequately escorted, against damaged ships, and independently routed vessels; while any aircraft carrier sighted within the range of a destroyer would be considered a worthwhile target for night or twilight attacks. With the present distribution of forces Group North regards the Strait between Bear Island and northern Norway the best point of concentration for submarine attacks, and the waters to the east and along the coast of Murmansk as the best point of concentration for air attacks. If the weather is favorable at the coast of Murmansk the use of PT boats is also suggested. (See Telegram 1651.)

This viewpoint is shared by the Naval Staff.

Security Measures in Norway:

a. Because of a general lack of forces the Naval Staff had to refuse the request of the Commanding Admiral, Norway for a new allotment of subchasers. However, the Naval Staff asked the Commanding Admiral, Norway to obtain information as to whether boats of the Trondheim harbor patrol flotilla can be converted into subchasers, whether they might operate as such in addition to performing their other assignments, and whether vessels could be spared for this purpose by other patrol and escort forces.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division was instructed to give priority wherever possible to all requests which the Commanding Admiral, Norway may submit in this connection. For copy according to instruction see Telegram 1414.

b. The Commanding Admiral, Norway requested that the ammunition allotted to Battery Cape Romanov be increased to at least 1,000 rounds per barrel, so that a very annoying enemy battery on the western part of the Rybachi Peninsula can be silenced. (See Telegram 1800.)

The matter is to be tended to by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff and the Naval Ordnance Division.

Mining Operations:

In consultation with the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff the Naval Staff had to refuse the request of Group North asking that the LEIPZIG be made available for operation IX in the Skagerrak (see War Diary 14 Apr). The reasons are as follows:

a. Recruits will be replaced on 15 Apr., therefore the cruiser's personnel will be inadequately trained.

b. The cruiser is not in a state of readiness for the operation planned.

c. The operation would interrupt current work to overhaul the engines and to replace the 15 cm. gun barrels. This would greatly interfere with making the ship available for inspections and training purposes.

Group North was instructed accordingly. The fleet informed Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division that in the meantime Group North decided to manage without the LEIPZIG and to insist no longer on this ship for operation IX.

Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff requests that the decision to use the LEIPZIG only for training and inspection purposes not be changed.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

Due to increased security measures it is difficult to find out anything on the sailing plans of Norwegian ships in Goeteborg.

2. Own Situation:

At 0945 icebreakers CASTOR, OSTPREUSSEN, and PREGEL departed from Libau for operations off Duenamuende. It is believed therefore that the danger threatening the bridges at Riga can be eliminated in time.

There is nothing else to report in the Baltic Sea.

V. Merchant Shipping:

Referring to the inquiry of the Operations Division, Naval Staff whether and to what extent the sinkings off the U.S. coast adversely affect the construction of enemy merchant shipping and whether in spite of that it is being increased by 500,000 GRT per month as assumed heretofore, the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch replies as follows:

a. The losses in construction material make themselves felt on British merchant ship construction; however, supplies on hand, exchange goods, and the adjustment of plans will make up for them sufficiently so that

these sinkings ought to affect British ship-building activities only in a small way.

b. As to merchant-ship construction in the U.S. it is not possible to make dependable estimates because it is not known what kind of cargo was carried by the ships which went down. It is safe to assume, however, that the loss of raw materials will not interfere with ship construction, because little raw material is shipped by sea, whereas it is likely that the sinking of tankers will be felt by shipyards and manufacturers making individual parts.

It is not possible to say at this time whether or not even half of the recently announced increase in the 1942/43 shipbuilding program can be accomplished.

In their reply the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch makes no mention of any personnel shortages which were doubtlessly caused by these numerous sinkings. It will have to be taken into account that for some time to come the enemy will be able to cope with such difficulties by means of a ruthless personnel policy.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

There was very lively reconnaissance activity in western British coastal waters. Radio intelligence picked up various signals on the sighting of submarines off the U.S. East Coast 75 miles east of Portland, off Nantucket Island, east and south of Cape Charles, off Cape Lookout, and off the coast of Florida. At 1235 a submarine made an attack 45 miles northeast of Cape Lookout; 180 miles southeast of this location a submarine warning signal was intercepted which was sent by the American steamer GREYLOCK (7,460 GRT).

A submarine sighting report was intercepted originating in the West Indies near Guadeloupe.

According to radio Schenectady the Canadian Navy announced the capture of a German submarine; the crew was taken prisoner.

The U.S. Navy Department announced that 2 American steamers were torpedoed in the Atlantic.

2. Own Situation:

For details of the operation of group "Blutrausch" against PQ 14 see Situation Norway. No reports were received as to its success.

It is reported that the steamer EMPIRE LIGHTNING (6,942 GRT) was sunk off the U.S. coast.

On 14 Apr. submarine U "203" succeeded in sinking another steamer of 5,000 GRT to be added to the total score of 36,000 GRT.

For additional reports on the situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

The Air Force General Staff reports that on 13 and 14 Apr. 2 planes were shot down. On 15 Apr. 2 bombers and 5 fighters were shot down. For reconnaissance reports see Enemy Situation, West Area and North Sea.

During the night of 15 Apr. 44 German planes successfully attacked Newcastle. After midnight a larger number of enemy planes penetrated into the Ruhr district. Additional enemy incursions are reported from the Le Havre area, from the Cherbourg-Brest area, and from the Netherlands.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

According to the radio intercept service of the Air Force, enemy submarines are now operating from Gibraltar, revealing that Valletta has been eliminated as a submarine base as well. In spite of unfavorable weather the nuisance raids against Malta are being continued. The X Air Corps reported a successful raid on an airfield in Egypt. Air Command, Africa supported the German Africa Corps and carried out attacks against the desert railroad.

Some damage was done when the German airfield at Maturba was attacked. Photographic reconnaissance flights were carried out over Alexandria.

3. Eastern Front:

German attacks were concentrated south of Lake Ilmen and around Kholm. Operations of the 4th Air Force were handicapped by bad conditions on the airfields. During the night of 14 Apr. 14 Ju 88's successfully attacked the harbor of Sevastopol. Armed reconnaissance flights off the Caucasus coast and in the area south of Sevastopol, carried out with torpedo planes and bombers, were unsuccessful.

For reconnaissance results of the 5th Air Force in the Arctic Ocean see Enemy Situation, Norway. No reports were received as to the success of the various operations against the convoys. Between 1145 and 1830 Murmansk was attacked by dive bombers. Hits were observed on the quays and 3 merchant ships.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence the British submarine P "43" will remain in home waters for the time being and will proceed to the Mediterranean about 15 May.

According to Italian agent reports of 14 Apr. London has ordered Alexandria to supply Malta at all cost. The reports also mention that bomb damage in Valletta harbor is considerable. British fighters are using isolated camouflaged runways instead of the airfields which have become unfit.

There is nothing else to report.

2. Situation Italy:

Unchanged.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The 7th Transport Squadron with 4 ships arrived unharmed in Tripoli. It carried some troops, 462 vehicles, and 8,322 tons of equipment for the Armed Forces.

Steamer WACHTFELS has also arrived in Tripoli. Other ship movements according to plan.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Nothing to report.

Group South asks the Naval Staff for its opinion concerning a dispute that has arisen between Group South and the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast. It arose while drafting executive orders elaborating on Fuehrer Directive No. 40 and concerned the question whether the island of Lemnos was to be considered primarily a naval or an air base. There is no airfield on the island; as far as air activity is concerned the only thing of importance is a seaplane base.

Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff will investigate the matter.

IX. Situation East Asia:

There is no news of military importance.

According to information received by the Military Attache in Bangkok from the Japanese Naval Attache at Japanese headquarters in Saigon, the war economy measures in the occupied territories of the Southwest Pacific depend on shipping space. While 10,000,000 GRT are required, only 6,000,000 GRT will be available even if all vessels which can be spared in Japanese home waters are made available for the purpose. Therefore a large shipbuilding program is planned, and about 400 Japanese and enemy ships that were sunk are to be raised. Due to the scarcity of iron it is planned to construct wooden ships and to develop ways of constructing ships from concrete. For the time being, due to the lack of facilities, the development of the war economy is limited to Malaya, Sumatra, and Borneo, and even there it will be confined to the most important raw materials like oil, tin, tungsten, and rubber. The program will be directed by the Army with the help of technical administrators along the same lines as the German organization in Belgium and France. German requests to purchase any of these raw materials are to be addressed to the Japanese Ministry of War.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Nothing to report.

Central Army Group:

In the sectors of the 2nd and 4th Panzer Armies fluctuating combat activity continued for the previously contested points in spite of the muddy condition of the roads. Northwest of Bryansk the railroad line in the rear area was again blown up by the enemy. The bridge over the Dnieper near Orsha was swept away by drifting ice, and the road bridge near Gusino west of Smolensk was crushed. It is attempted to arrange a detour over Vitebsk.

Northern Army Group:

At the northwestern flank group Eicke attacked and penetrated enemy positions. The Von Seydlitz group began another attack against the Lovat. Diverting attacks of the enemy against the northeast flank of the group southeast of Staraya Russa were repulsed. There is persistent fighting near the Volkhov.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Enemy attacks at the Svir front are continuing. In the area of the Commanding General, Lapland an enemy night attack against the southern sector of the Litsa front was repulsed. According to prisoner of war statements a good-sized shipyard has been built in Molotovsk. The ports of Anderma and Naryan Mar are being expanded and improved, as well as the waterways and the railway line leading to them. Defense measures are planned in view of the potential threat to Murmansk and Archangel.

3. North Africa:

Lively artillery and reconnaissance activity on both sides along the entire front.

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16 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

In connection with the possibility of a Laval government the "Times" voices its apprehension over the fact that France may become the arsenal and food bin of her German conqueror. The U.S. press comments that there is much cause for anxiety because Laval may turn over the French Fleet to Germany, aid Rommel, attack De Gaulle's equatorial Africa, and possibly give Madagascar to Japan and Dakar to Germany. The commentators hope, however, that Darlan will prevent the surrender of the fleet.

According to the United Press from Vichy, Laval made the statement that he intends to keep up friendly relations not only with Germany but with the U.S. as well. His policy would have to find a solution for the problems of how to uphold the integrity of the French Empire as well as France's position in the war between Germany and Great Britain.

Great Britain:

Members of the House of Lords criticized that the strength of the British Naval Air Force is inadequate. Government spokesmen emphasized that it would be wrong to separate naval and army air forces. It is desirable rather that the various branches of the Armed Forces cooperate with one another.

> This opinion is probably based on considerations of production which is interested more in uniform armament than the diversified tactical use of the weapon.

According to various reports it is planned to form a new Allied war council with Russia participating. Due to the fact that she is not at war with Japan, she was not represented in any agency so far either in Washington or in London.

Australia:

The question whether MacArthur is to have over-all command seems not quite clear yet. The Prime Minister declared that Australia will do everything in her power and fight until the U.S. is strong enough to enable the Allies to strike back. He said that the battle must not end in a stalemate, as this would be the same as defeat in the eyes of the Allies.

Sweden:

The Foreign Minister informed the German Ambassador that the Swedish Government will withhold sailing permission for the DICTO and the LIONEL, the 2 Norwegian steamers which had turned back to Goeteborg after a futile break-through attempt. Nor will the other 2 steamers still in Goeteborg be permitted to leave. The minister stressed however that no precedent will be set by this 1 case.

U.S.S.R.:

It is claimed that Ambassador Maisky informed the British Government that Stalin is greatly disappointed over the failure of Cripps' mission in India. The Russians believe that British concessions were not sufficient. Cripps' loss of prestige may have influenced Russia's attitude.

U.S.A.:

According to a diplomatic report from one of our allies Colonel Johnson has promised India that the U.S. will supply her with a large amount of arms, ammunition, and industrial products. The shipments are to go by way of Natal (Brazil), Freetown, and Capetown, with main station on the way in Freetown. It is also claimed that the U.S. will send planes to China and Siberia, and that New Delhi has been chosen as headquarters for Allied air forces. Transports to Siberia are to go by way of the Arctic Ocean.

On the occasion of Pan-American Day Roosevelt declared that the present war should properly be called "war of survival". He suggested that after the defeat of the Axis a new "Council of the Western Hemisphere" should be formed.

For the first evidence of war financing in the U.S. see Political Review, No. 88, Paragraph 5c.

According to British newspaper reports members of Congress have noticed widespread unrest and discontent among their constituents over the course of the war. The people are demanding a more forceful conduct of the war and military successes. Roosevelt's popularity is on the decline.

According to a statement by Sumner Welles the government of the U.S. will voice its opinion on the situation in France only after the French Government has definitely been reorganized. For the present the 2 Red Cross relief ships will postpone their voyage to North Africa. Citizens of the U.S., who are in occupied France on private business, were urged by their government to leave the country.

Japan:

According to Domei News Agency the Japanese Army Air Force is being reorganized. A system of Army Air Force divisions will be created under the immediate command of the emperor, replacing the Army Air Corps system.

It remains to be seen whether this measure will mean the creation of an independent air arm.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the assignment of the arctic ship ZENITH for meteorological service in the waters between the east coast of Greenland and the west coast of Spitsbergen, and between 76° N and 80° N. During the summer and fall the vessel will operate in open waters. It is planned that the ship remain at the east coast of Greenland, north of 79° N or at the north coast of Spitsbergen during the winter. The Chief, Meteorological Branch, Naval Staff has no objections to this plan. The ship will receive instructions from Group North by way of Intelligence (Abwehr), Hamburg.

II. The Chief, Naval Staff approves the Naval Staff's decision regarding the cruiser LEIPZIG. (See War Diary 15 Apr.)

III. Report of Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff: The Chief, Communications, Air has approved the agreement between Group North and the 5th Air Force and indicated that similar arrangements might be

forthcoming with reference to all parts of the Air Force. This means that a noteworthy progress has been achieved, because in the past all attempts of the Navy to bring about an effective cooperation in the field of communications had failed due to the opposition of the Air Force. In the Fuehrer Conference of 13 Apr. the Commander in Chief, Navy made mention of certain difficulties caused by General Martini's attitude according to information supplied by Group North. This caused the Armed Forces High Command to investigate the matter. The Chief, Naval Staff criticizes that he was not informed early enough as to General Martini's recent attitude.

The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff then reports on the state of discussions with front-line stations and Army authorities concerning an impressive alarm signal to be used in the event of enemy landings. He also called attention to the fact that it will be difficult to keep the departure of the DRESDEN from Bordeaux a secret since the cargo bore the Japanese points of destination which therefore became known among the French population. The authorities responsible for this big blunder are the Mercantile and Economic Warfare Division of the Armed Forces High Command and the Joint Intelligence Office, Section IV. This brings into the foreground again the necessity of putting the Etappe back under the jurisdiction of the Navy. Commander in Chief, Navy orders that the matter be discussed with the Chief of the Joint Intelligence Office.

IV. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff submits an order which provides that the Admiral, Arctic Ocean in operational matters be assigned to Group North, and that in administrative matters this office remain attached to the Commanding Admiral, Norway. Copy of this order will be inserted in the War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The Chief, Naval Staff gives his approval.

The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports on a letter written by Reichsstatthalter Kaufmann to Reichsleiter Himmler, Bormann, and Dr. Goebbels concerning the morale of the Kiel population and the rumors following an enemy air raid on 12 Mar. and the night of 25 Mar. Captain von Puttkamer sent the letter to the Naval High Command for its information. In compliance with request Naval Station, Baltic submitted a report which clears them of all criticism. The Commander in Chief, Navy orders a memorandum sent to Reichsstatthalter Kaufmann with the request that he address himself directly to the Commander in Chief, Navy or naval authorities when such questions arise in the future.

V. The Chief, Foreign Affairs Section, Naval Staff reports on the evaluation of the fighting strength of the French Provisional Armed Forces by the German Armistice Commission, France. Because of inadequate equipment the French Army and Navy are of little combat value, particularly in view of the lack of heavy weapons and the fuel oil situation.

VI. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the Fuehrer's directive to the Commander in Chief, Air that offensive air warfare against Great Britain be intensified. "In this connection aerial attacks are to be concentrated against those targets whose destruction would be most likely to disrupt public life. Retaliatory terror attacks against cities other than London are to be carried out in addition to attacks on harbors and industrial installations. Mining operations are to be limited if necessary in order to carry out this order."

The naval liaison officer attached to the Armed Forces High Command is to find out the reason for this order, which is very much to be regretted from the standpoint of naval warfare. Until then the Naval

Staff will reserve an opinion. For copy of directive see 1/Skl I op 772/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

Special Items:

I. In explanation of Fuehrer Directive No. 40, II, 7, last paragraph, Naval Group North informed Army Group D, the Commanding Generals, Armed Forces, Norway, Netherlands, Baltic Countries, and Denmark, as well as the subordinate naval authorities (copies to the Naval Staff and Naval Group, West) that in the area of Naval Group North all mine sweepers, patrol boats, motor mine sweepers, and subchasers come under the category of operational naval forces just like the fleet forces, and that they are exclusively under the jurisdiction of Naval Group, North or its subordinates. For routine reconnaissance operations therefore, the Commanding Generals, Armed Forces will have available only harbor patrol flotillas under the local naval commands. Army Group D and the Armed Forces Commanders are requested to direct special requests for naval forces to Group North according to the above-mentioned paragraph of Directive No. 40. Such requests are to be made through the naval commander in charge. (See Telegram 2339.)

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division will have to take up the question raised hereby before it assumes greater proportions.

II. The motor mine sweeper group of the 36th Mine Sweeper Flotilla on the way to the Danube Estuary is replenishing supplies in Hamburg. On 17 Apr. the ships will continue the voyage via Dresden and Uebigau.

III. Based on experiences gained since April 1940, the 3rd Air Force has submitted a report evaluating successes of aerial mining operations. All in all 7,177 planes participated in the missions. 70 planes were lost. Ammunition used totals 10,421.5 tons. Direct results: 641 ships of approximately 1,800,000 GRT sunk, probably sunk, or damaged.

Only one large-scale mining operation, the one against the mouth of the Thames in December 1940, has been carried out until now. In order to achieve maximum effectiveness, mining operations must be carried out on a large scope and over a continuous period. As there are 20,000 aerial mines on hand, and the monthly quota of aerial mines to be dropped is 4,500 to 5,000 mines, adequate ammunition is guaranteed for this purpose. The report closes with the following statement:

"If the emphasis on the coastal areas designated for concentrated mine laying is shifted constantly, and if concentrated attacks against harbors, supply and shipyard installations, and attacks on ships are continued as much as possible, it will be possible to create such a confusion in shipping, that in the long run the enemy will be unable to remain master of the situation. Thus his vital supply lines will be seriously threatened."

In all its statements and conclusions this memorandum is in complete accord with the opinion constantly expressed by the Naval Staff, who welcomes the fact that this viewpoint has now been adopted by the responsible Air Force authorities.

In view of this fact it is all the more regrettable that the latest Fuehrer directive concerning aerial warfare against Great Britain is

planning terror attacks at the expense of aerial mine warfare.

Situation 16 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio intelligence intercepted signals of a Panama steamer in New Zealand waters 210 miles east of Dunedin reporting the sighting of a submarine. Mine warning west of North Island was also intercepted.

2. Own Situation:

Radiogram 1851 carried instructions to the REGENSBURG, informing also the TANNENFELS, to be at point "Tisch" daily at the same time in accordance with instructions, starting as of 20 Apr. The Naval Staff estimates that the TANNENFELS will arrive on or about 21 Apr. After replenishment of supplies the REGENSBURG is to proceed to a rendezvous area within a 300 miles radius of new point "Stuhl", which lies 3° more to the west and 8° more to the north of point "Kartoffel".

Information on the enemy situation was sent by Radiogram 2100.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reported that around noon a ship was sighted at anchor off Belfast, apparently an aircraft carrier, possibly the ILLUSTRIOUS. According to intelligence report the cargo which the ILLUSTRIOUS took aboard in Norfolk consisted almost exclusively of American planes.

In the northern part of the Irish Sea 10 PT boats and 4 destroyers were sighted proceeding on zigzag courses. Between 0725 and 1415 one tanker and 7 vessels in a convoy were observed off Londonderry.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The DRESDEN put to sea according to plans. Radiogram 2238 was sent with information on the weather situation.

During the night of 15 Apr. enemy planes flew over Brest and Lorient. While no bombs were dropped, it is believed that the planes laid aerial mines. In the course of an air raid on St. Nazaire, 25 to 30 planes dropped 130 high explosive bombs. 1 submarine pen was hit by 5 bombs, 1 of which penetrated 0.80 meter into the concrete ceiling, while the other 4 penetrated only 0.40 to 0.57 meter.

Channel Coast:

Owing to the suspected presence of mines there, the detour route "Rosa" between point 28a and 29 has been closed. On 15 Apr.

1 mine exploded in the mine-sweeping gear. An enemy air attack on Cherbourg on 15 Apr., in the course of which 30 high explosive bombs were dropped, caused only slight damage. During the night of 15 Apr. numerous enemy planes flew into the Calais area. No damage was reported.

At the request of Group West a previous order stipulating that only ZE-mines may be laid off the "Seeloewe" coast has been cancelled by the Naval Staff in regard to mine laying by naval forces. (See Telegram 1315.)

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reports the sighting of 3 southbound convoys off the East Coast. Air Force radio intercept service reported another convoy at the mouth of the Thames River. At noon radio intelligence reported a vessel 215 miles northeast of Kristiansund North, presumably a submarine. An unknown source reported to the Flag Officer Commanding Orkneys and Shetlands a rendezvous point 70 miles west of Stavanger.

For report of Group North and the 5th Air Force on the result of the photographic reconnaissance of Scapa Flow (see War Diary 15 Apr.) see Telegrams 0757 and 1200.

Own Situation:

During the night of 15 Apr. various enemy planes made incursions into the German Bight, north of Heligoland as far as Sylt and Esbjerg, and into the Netherlands. Near Flushing incendiary bombs were dropped.

In connection with the suspension of troop shipments through the North Sea due to the ice situation, the Commanding Admiral, North Sea made the statement that no losses were suffered by the 90 odd convoys and that only 1 steamer had been damaged by the enemy in spite of numerous enemy air attacks and in spite of the lack of escort forces.

> The authorities responsible for the smooth operation and the very good result achieved well deserve the praise expressed by the Commanding Admiral, Group North. (See Telegram 0959.)

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

PQ 14 which had been sighted by submarines and air reconnaissance on 15 Apr. was reported by submarine U "454" to consist of 9 vessels. The submarine lost contact in quadrant AB 6265 at 0520. The convoy was again sighted by submarine U "592" in AB 6276 at 0055, by submarine U "403" at 0512, and by submarine U "589" at 0715. The convoy is accompanied by a strong remote escort. With respect to the strength of the escort, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean believes that the report by submarine U "589" naming 1 cruiser of the D class, and 2

tribal class destroyers is more plausible as far as the type ship is concerned, than the first aerial report, naming 1 battleship, 1 cruiser and 7 destroyers. According to a report of the 5th Air Force the escort forces consisted of 1 cruiser of the BIRMINGHAM class, 1 anti-aircraft cruiser, 5 destroyers, and 2 corvettes, which were later joined by 1 light cruiser and 1 destroyer presumably from QP 13. Air reconnaissance reported QP 13 southwest-bound 70 miles east of Jan Mayen, consisting of 16 steamers accompanied by 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, and 4 escort vessels, which were evidently being joined by a cruiser from the east.

Own Situation:

Operation against PQ 14:

In view of available reports on the strength of the enemy's escort the Admiral, Arctic Ocean does not plan to use the destroyers against the convoy, for the time being. Group North puts submarines of group "Bums" operationally under the Admiral, Arctic Ocean, as far as 30° E and proposes that all boats which have lost contact are to proceed eastward as fast as possible along the convoy route in order to get ahead of the convoy. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean however does not plan to take operations in his own hands until contact is lost, because the submarines at present in contact with the convoy have a better view of operations for the time being in cooperation with the contact plane which gives them the bearings.

At 1646 submarine U "403" sank 1 steamer of 8,000 GRT. The Air Force has not reported any successes.

Group North approves the decision not to use destroyers against convoy PQ 14, and releases them for offensive mining operations. Since the convoy will probably not touch the area of the Kuesel mine fields and since at this season destroyers can lay mines close to the coast only to a limited extent, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean is directed to have mines laid in the area of quadrant AC 8834-8339 and to attempt to carry through this mission if possible during the night of 17 Apr. before convoy PQ 14 reaches this area.

Group North assumes that enemy escort forces from Murmansk will meet the convoy further out at sea and opposition in the area to be mined should be rather weak. The laying of mine fields so close to the coast limits submarine operations in these waters; however, this fact is being accepted, in view of the advanced season. (See Telegram message 1830.)

> This means that Group North has finally realized something that has been suggested frequently by the Naval Staff, but without avail.

Report on the Situation by the Commanding Admiral, Norway:

Supply and convoy operations continue according to plan. On 15 Apr. enemy planes were active over Kirkenes and Stavanger, and on 16 Apr. near Lister.

Security Measures in Norway:

A large-scale enemy landing in Norway, if attempted at all, must be expected soon, since seasonal factors work more and more against the enemy, whereas German defensive forces are growing stronger all the time. According to the latest information, it seems no longer

probable that the Goeteborg ships will put to sea, and therefore Group North receives instructions from the Naval Staff to transfer the boats of the 6th PT Boat Flotilla to the north. (See Telegram 1311.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

According to information from Finland the Russians had the following ships at their disposal on Lake Ladoga as of 7 Mar.: 11 torpedo and or gun boats, 32 motor mine sweepers, 20 motor boats, 9 transport vessels, 17 tugs, and 7 training and survey ships, the majority of which were stationed in Osinovets, Morya, and Novaya Ladoga.

2. Own Situation:

With respect to mining operations in Lake Ladoga, Group North believes it best to use few but fast vessels equipped with automatic weapons. Group North believes that aside from mining operations and air attacks only the Army is in a position to eliminate the Russian naval forces from Lake Ladoga. (See Telegram 1811.)

The Naval Staff issues instructions accordingly. As for the Baltic Sea there is nothing to report.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio intelligence intercepted signals originating from the U.S. East Coast reporting submarines off Cape Hatteras, Cape Fear, and the coast of Florida. In the Caribbean Sea a report revealed that the Panamanian tanker HEINRICH VON RIEDEMANN (11,020 GRT) had been torpedoed and that the American steamer ALCOA GUIDE (4,438 GRT) was being fired on.

2. Own Situation:

For operation against PQ 14 see Situation Norway.

Submarine U "66" reported from the Caribbean Sea that she sank a tanker of 12,000 GRT and a steamer of 12,000 GRT. 400 miles south of Sable Island submarine U "582" succeeded in evading a spread of 4 from an enemy submarine.

In the eastern part of the Mediterranean operation "Morgenstern", proposed by the Commanding Admiral, German Naval Command, Italy and approved by the Naval Staff has started according to directions from the Commander, Submarines, Italy. (See War Diary 25 Mar.) Submarines U "81", U "331", U "561", and U "562" participating in this mission have proceeded to their respective operational positions. The attack was to be launched as a surprise the night of 15 Apr. Based on experience gained in this war, the operations order was drawn up in accordance with Naval Staff opinion in regard to mine-laying plans as well as the surprise attacks on ships in the roads or harbors of

Haifa, Beirut, Larnaka, Limasol, and Jaffa or Tripoli. For details see the supplementary report on the situation.

So far the following successes were reported by 2 of the submarines participating: 1 tanker, 1 patrol vessel, and 5 sailing vessels sunk, 1 steamer torpedoed.

Detailed report on the situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the night of 15 Apr. 44 planes launched a heavy attack on the Austin Shipyards in Sunderland, the drydock at South Shields, and Middlesbrough. For results observed see daily situation.

In the daytime 11 Spitfires were shot down by our defenses in the Fort Philippe area. For results of reconnaissance flights see Enemy Situation, West Area, and North Sea..

During the night of 16 Apr. 44 German planes made a night attack on Liverpool, and 54 German planes attacked Southampton. During this night the enemy concentrated his attacks on western France.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

No operations due to the weather.

3. Eastern Front:

German air attacks were concentrated north and south of Lake Ilmen. In daylight raids 15 He 111's attacked Kerch, 12 He 111's attacked Kamish Burun, and 13 Ju 88's attacked the airfield of Sevastopol with good results.

For reconnaissance activity in the northern area see Enemy Situation, Norway.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

No special reports were received. There is little change in the ships lying in the harbors of Gibraltar, Valletta, and Alexandria.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 15 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Ship movements continue according to plans without interference.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

During the night of 15 Apr. an enemy submarine attacked the island Koufonisi off the southeastern tip of Crete, evidently capturing the small Italian garrison. That same night enemy planes attacked Crete. No damage was reported. The Swedish steamers HALLAREN and SICILIA with food for Greece arrived in Piraeus.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence 8 submarines were operating off the Crimea and in the western part of the Black Sea. Air reconnaissance reported only very little shipping traffic.

Own Situation:

The convoy with steamers PRODOMOS, ARKADIA, and SALZBURG, coming from the Bosporus, arrived in Burgas.

There was much mine sweeping, escort, and reconnaissance activity.

On 17 Apr. it is planned to transfer the BRUNHILD together with the Danube Flotilla and the FORSCH to Ochakov.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

According to enemy press reports Australian planes attacked Koepang airfield on Timor on 14 Apr. Japanese air attacks on Port Moresby have decreased. Since 4 Apr. no attacks were made on Port Darwin.

The U.S. Navy Department announced the sinking of 1 Japanese steamer off Bataan, and of 3 transport ships off Cebu.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

No appreciable change in the Crimea. Little fighting took place in the entire area of the Army Group.

2. Central Army Group:

In the area of the 4th Army reinforced enemy units launched attacks near Pomina. Enemy tanks advanced as far as the highway. Northwest of Yukhnov enemy attacks were repulsed. In isolated strong points southeast of Vyazma remnants of enemy troops continue to resist stubbornly. Little fighting activity in the other sectors.

Northern Army Group:

Southwest of Kholm attacks against the highway from the north

and the south were repulsed. The northern part of Kholm was under heavy fire. Enemy troops supported by tanks are attacking the southern and eastern part of the city. For the time being the German attack in the direction of the Lovat had to be halted, since it was impossible to bring up the heavy weapons and supplies because the ice destroyed the bridges over the tributaries of the Lovat. The Von Seydlitz group succeeded in repulsing enemy attacks from the east and the northeast. North of Staraya Russa German troops pursued the enemy as far as the Polist. South of the Maluksa-Soltsy railroad an enemy attack was brought to a halt in front of our lines with the support of dive bombers.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Enemy attacks at the Svir continued. German troops succeeded in blocking off an enemy penetration east of Podporozhye.

3. North Africa:

There was only little artillery and reconnaissance activity because of a sandstorm.

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17 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

On 10 Apr. Henriot made a speech in Algiers in the interest of German-French collaboration. He condemned the attitude of wait and see which tries to avoid making decisions and called attention to the fact that even Napoleon had wanted collaboration with Germany and that then as now Britain encouraged dissension on the continent. He also assailed Great Britain and bolshevism.

This reference to Napoleon will hardly make a hit even with French listeners.

According to information from a diplomatic source the Vichy government has taken thorough measures for the defense of Madagascar revealing that, while an Anglo-American attack is being anticipated, no Japanese aggression is feared. The confidence in Japan shown by France leads to the conclusion that with respect to Madagascar the two countries have reached an agreement similar to that pertaining to Indo-China. There is apprehension as to the reaction of the U.S. and Great Britain, especially so, as this reaction may eventually affect all of West Africa.

Great Britain:

Summarizing commentaries on the failure of Cripps' mission reveal that an agreement was reached with the Hindus as well as with the Moslems to the effect that while all basic changes in the constitution will be decided on now, they are going into effect only after the war. It also seems that contrary to Gandhi's attitude the leaders of the Congress Party have declared their readiness to give up the policy of absolute pacifism and to participate in India's defense against Japan. However no agreement was reached on the following matters: 1. The direction of India's defense. 2. What sort of relations are to exist between the future Indian Cabinet on the one hand and the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India in London on the other hand. 3. The creation of the State of Pakistan.

Turkey:

Russo-Turkish relations have become more strained. The Turkish Ambassador in Kuibyshev was instructed to leave immediately for a prolonged leave, while it is believed in Moscow that the Russian Ambassador in Ankara will also be recalled for consultation at home.

Great Britain's proposal to create a joint Anglo-Turkish committee for the supervision of Turkish Foreign Trade was categorically rejected by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

U.S.A.:

Reuter reports that the government has decided to recall the American Ambassador in Vichy for consultation in Washington.

Argentina:

According to information from the Navy Department, the government in Buenos Aires feels that the Inter-American Defense Committee in

Washington is of little importance. Argentina is represented by attaches only. The Naval Attache will not express his point of view on the convoy question, because now as in the past Argentina rejects the convoy system for her ships. For the Conference of the Committee of Political Defense of the American Continent which is beginning in Montevideo on 15 Apr., Argentina has chosen her ambassador in Montevideo, known as a friend of the Axis.

Japan:

According to Japanese reports, unlike conditions in Malaya and Burma where the population continues to remain pro-Japanese, the resistance of the Philippinos continues to increase, even resulting in difficulties and unrest in a number of places.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Staff Operations Branch speaks about the reports received from the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea as to how the mining problem was solved and what experiences were made in the Gulf of Suda near Milos, and off Herakleion by auxiliary mine layer BARLETTA.

In view of the fact that conditions are particularly difficult in the Aegean Sea on account of the personnel and materiel situation and the fact that the Italian and German commands are dependent on one another, it should be noted that the operations were carried out by the responsible commands conscientiously, accurately, and intelligently. The work accomplished and the detailed reports giving valuable information deserve special praise. The impression is gained that, since the 2 allied navies cooperated in an exemplary manner, an excellent job was done in a situation that made it necessary to fight with very primitive means. The Chief, Naval Staff agrees to bring this commendation to the attention of the commands concerned. Group South and the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea get appropriate telegrams from the Commander in Chief, Navy.

II. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports on the new version of the order of the Armed Forces High Command concerning the naval defense of the islands off the coast of Western France. He also presents a draft of instructions to be issued in this connection by the Naval High Command which are approved by the Chief, Naval Staff.

III. The Chief, Naval Construction Division reports that the completion of repairs on the SCHARNHORST will be delayed until 22 Jul., and the new quarter deck section of the PRINZ EUGEN will not be completed until 25 May. He stated also that the burden on the shipyards will be eased because the order providing that 4 ships be fitted out for the North-East Passage has been cancelled.

IV. The Chief, Ordnance Division, Naval Staff reports that it will take until summer 1943 to install the GNEISENAU turret on the Norwegian coast as ordered.

V. After that the Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports on the mining operation carried out by Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean as part of the mine offensive against the Murmansk shipping traffic (see War Diary 16 Apr.), something which in the past has frequently been

suggested by the Naval Staff but without avail.

VI. The Chief, Naval Staff orders that the Commanding Admiral, Submarines turn in a report as to how soon he will be able to replace the 20 submarines which are ear-marked for the Arctic Ocean. He also requests that the possibilities be investigated of dispatching a large mine layer for mining operations in the White Sea.

VII. The Chief, Foreign Affairs Section, Naval Staff gives a report concerning a Naval Staff complaint criticizing the inefficiency of the intelligence work done in connection with the escape of the Norwegian ships from Goeteborg.

VIII. The Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff then reports on the change to be effected in ship-to-coast recognition-signal procedure in accordance with the Fuehrer's directive of 13 Apr., which, within reasonable limits, gives coastal batteries liberty to open fire at once.

IX. The Naval Attache discloses that the Japanese submarine left Japan on 11 Apr. en route to Western France.

Special Items:

I. The minutes of the conference of the Commander in Chief, Navy with the Fuehrer have been forwarded to the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff requesting that he see how the conclusions reached affect the work of the Quartermaster Division, and that he take steps accordingly. (Amongst other things to be considered are the lessons learned at St. Nazaire, the Fuehrer decree stating that no German guns may be turned over to Bulgaria or Rumania, the sale of the steamer SCHARNHORST to Japan, the installation of the GNEISENAU guns, and the defense of islands off Western France.)

II. The Naval Liaison Officer attached to the Armed Forces High Command is instructed that the Naval Staff believes that Admiral Nomura should be given as much insight into German military plans as was given the Japanese Ambassador by the Fuehrer. If it should not be advisable to inform Nomura separately and in the event that the Fuehrer or the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces High Command should nave another conference with Oshima, the Naval Staff recommends that Admiral Nomura be asked to attend. Nomura will have to be informed if we want our wishes accepted as promptly as is desirable. The Naval Liaison Officer is ordered to instruct General Jodl accordingly and to inform him that minutes of the recent discussions between the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff and Admiral Nomura are available to him if he so desires.

Situation 17 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

For summary of enemy reports intercepted by radio monitoring and radio intelligence up to and including 12 Apr. see Radio Intelligence Report No. 15/42 of Chief, Communications Division, Naval Staff, (Radio Intelligence).

Commenting on the naval warfare situation the Daily Mail writes that the shipping losses are disastrous and that Japan owns a larger number of aircraft carriers than Great Britain. The paper emphasized that Germany's fleet is also stronger than generally believed and that her submarines and destroyers are increasing in number. With the exception of cruisers, the Axis fleets are superior in number to the British fleet. The article sees a danger in the lack of naval bases. Alexandria offers but few dock facilities, and the bases on Ceylon are not usable. Neither Bombay nor Aden are equipped to handle a large number of ships. There are no dock installations in Australia, and both Durban and Simonstown are too far away. The oil supply of the fleet is endangered, because Borneo and Burma are lost, Iran and Iraq are threatened, and no oil is being released by Russia. German submarines interfere with shipments from Venezuela. The U.S. has been hard hit by the tanker losses. All in all it must be admitted that British naval supremacy is as good as lost. Without it victory is impossible.

Nothing else to report.

2. Own Situation:

Ship "10" sent short code signal:

"Require new plane and aviation fuel. Have 5 torpedoes left."

Report seems to indicate that ship "10" succeeded in sinking her 5 victims "silently" (Tr.N.: Cutting their aerials before they could send a message), torpedoing them at night.

Confirmation by Radiogram 2320.

Radiogram 0942 was sent, instructing the TANNENFELS to provide the REGENSBURG with supplies for ship "10" and with a minimum of 1,000 cu.m. of fuel oil, more if possible, depending on the capacity of the REGENSBURG. The TANNENFELS is to keep just enough oil to enable her to reach Japan.

Radiogram 1121 is sent to the PORTLAND and MUENSTERLAND instructing them that if their sailing orders call for the sending of a short code signal when approaching the Bay of Biscay, that part of the order should be disregarded and strict radio silence be observed instead.

Message 1415 was sent to the Naval Attache in Tokyo informing him that the TANNENFELS is carrying crew members from a steamer sunk by ship "10". The Naval Attache was also directed to make preliminary arrangements so that these prisoners of war can be turned over to the Japanese, and interrogation results transmitted.

Radiogram 0403 informed all ships in foreign waters of sighting reports turned in by the RIO GRANDE during her voyage from 31 Jan. to 20 Mar.

Information on the enemy situation was sent by Radiogram 1951.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance sighted 2 convoys entering the North

Channel, 1 consisting of 3 steamers, the other of 6 tankers and 13 steamers with 3 destroyers.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

During the night of 16 Apr. enemy planes attacked Lorient and St. Nazaire causing slight damage in Lorient. 2 enemy planes were shot down.

Channel Coast:

In the afternoon of 16 Apr. enemy planes attacked Le Havre. The electric power plant was shut down for 10 days. During the night of 16 Apr. the enemy made numerous incursions into the area Ostend-Boulogne-Le Havre. Enemy fighters machine-gunned harbor patrol boats off Dieppe and Dunkirk.

Telegram 1942 informed Group West that the Commander in Chief, Air has agreed to the limited use of aerial mines off the east coast. (See War Diary 9 and 13 Apr.)

3. Special Items:

In view of the large number of special landing boats being assembled by the enemy, the Chief, Army General Staff believes that a reversed "Seeloewe" operation is not unlikely, involving about 12 to 15 divisions in the area between the Scheldt estuary and Boulogne or between the Seine estuary and Brittany. It seems to him that above all the Seine estuary, a historical landing point, is endangered. Therefore the Naval Staff was asked to supply answers to the following questions:

a. What is the present approximate number of special landing boats ready for operation?

b. What are the chances for such an operation to succeed?

c. How can landing craft concentrations be recognized in time?

Viewpoint of Naval Staff:

As to a:

There are 3 major types of landing craft:

(1) Assault landing craft (ALC), fast armored vessels, capable of carrying a crew and 35 men. These boats can be hung in davits.

(2) Support landing craft (SLC), fast vessels equipped with 1 mortar, 2 anti-aircraft machine guns, mine-sweeping gear. Carry a naval crew of 10. Can be carried in davits.

(3) Motor Landing Craft (MLC), heavy armored vessels. Can operate only from special ships equipped with booms. Motor propelled. They have a capacity of 100 men or 2 trucks, or 2 light tanks, or 1 infantry or reconnaissance tank. Armored shields with loopholes are installed at the bow and can be lowered to serve as landing ramps for the vehicles. At Gibraltar a special ship was

sighted, the DEWDALE (12,000 GRT) carrying 12 to 15 MLC's.

Considering the large number of these vessels available, the ease with which they can be built in numerous shipyards making small ships and boats, the following number of vessels is believed available for a landing operation on the French Coast after the vessels sent to the Near East and India have been deducted: Several hundred ALC, half as many MLC, and several hundred SLC.

Thus if, for example, about 300 ALC, 150 MLC, and 300 SLC were to take part in a landing, they could carry about 28,500 men, or 13,500 men and 300 light tanks. Even without U.S. aid the number of craft now available could be multiplied within a short time.

As to b: The question of ocean-going vessels is of no importance in the Netherland area and of little importance in northern France. At present the enemy probably does not have enough landing craft available to land superior forces in a single crossing. However he is in a position to make up for this deficiency in a comparatively short time if he really intends to make a landing.

As to c: The concentration of an unusually large number of landing craft in the jumping-off ports cannot escape watchful photographic air reconnaissance. Furthermore a landing must be preceded by a considerable increase in the enemy's air activity over the area to be invaded. This activity will be directed in particular against ground installations of the German Air Force because a guaranteed air supremacy is the most important prerequisite for the success of such an operation.

This statement of the Naval Staff was turned over to the Naval Liaison Officer attached to the Army High Command for the information of the Chief, General Staff.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance, a convoy of 30 steamers left the Thames River in the morning. The radio-intercept service of the Air Force located a convoy off Margate. No details were given.

Own Situation:

Mine-detonating vessel "10" was set afloat and is being towed into Wesermuende. Work has been begun to unload tanker EUROSEE. Motor ship FINKENWAERDER was damaged by a mine and towed into Heligoland harbor. Off Hubertgat a harbor patrol boat was unsuccessfully bombed by an enemy plane.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

At 0700 air reconnaissance reported convoy PQ 14 consisting of 7 steamers, 6 destroyers, and 5 escort vessels on course 110° at

71° 10' N, 29° 13' E, and the last time at 1450 on course 121° at 73° 30' N 32° 20' E. The convoy was located last by submarine hydrophone in quadrant AO 5581 at 2130.

Own Situation:

Operation against PQ 14. Planes kept contact with the convoy until 1425. Several submarines stayed within visual range until 2000. From then on for the rest of the day contact was kept by means of hydrophone because of heavy snowfall and increasingly poor visibility. Submarine U "377" was held up by a prolonged submarine chase and was subsequently allowed to proceed to Narvik.

The Air Force reports that a tanker of 8,000 GRT was damaged in the course of an attack at about 0700.

At 1358 submarine U "376" reported launching a fan of three on a large escorting destroyer, possibly a cruiser of the BELFAST class. 3 detonations were heard, probably involving several targets.

Plans for the mining operation of Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean had to be dropped because it was not possible to take the mines aboard in Kirkenes in time.

The group had to sail first from La Fjord to Kirkenes, arriving there at 1400.

For that reason Group North approved the proposal of the Admiral, Arctic Ocean that the destroyers be employed against enemy patrols off Murmansk, since such operations would constitute in effect indirect warfare against the convoy by facilitating submarine and PT boat attacks. At the same time Group North expressed regrets over the fact that the mining operation did not come off. If it had been carried out shortly before the arrival of the convoy it would greatly have handicapped the enemy's entry into the harbor, even if he had detected the mine-laying in the twilight. Because of the strong escort, destroyers are to refrain from attacking the convoy itself. Preparations should be made now to take on mines so that they can definitely be laid on short notice before PQ 15 arrives (see Telegrams 1706 and 2219). At 1830 Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean left Kirkenes to carry out this order.

Report on the Situation by the Commanding Admiral, Norway. On 15 Apr. an oil tank was hit in the course of an enemy attack on Petsamo. 6 bombs fell on an artillery position without causing particular damage. A heavy Russian battery fired 28 rounds on the Murmansaetti battery. During the night of 15 Apr. the same battery fired on a convoy without scoring any hits.

On 16 Apr. 12 mines were swept on route "Gruen". The route has been closed. Off Vardoe an enemy submarine was chased. On 17 Apr. the 6th PT Boat Flotilla left Kristiansand South for Bergen, and mine layers ULM and ROLAND departed from Bergen in a northerly direction. The steamers POTSDAM and GNEISENAU transferred from Oslo to bays north of Horten. Two thirds of the cargo of the SIMON VON UTRECHT has been recovered. Salvage operations on the ship have begun.

Security Measures in Norway. The Commanding General, Lapland evidently submitted a request to the Armed Forces High Command that his office be kept well informed on naval matters. The Armed Forces High Command states in this connection:

1. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean has jurisdiction over all

naval matters in the area of the Commanding General, Lapland and in the area to the west. He is responsible for keeping the Army command informed on all naval orders issued and on all results of naval reconnaissance which have to do with the coastal defense in the area under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Lapland. Admiral, Arctic Ocean, moreover, is to supply the Army Command, Lapland with intelligence from other areas which might indicate an impending enemy operation against the area under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Lapland. He likewise is to inform him of any ship movements in the Arctic Ocean connected therewith. It seems advisable in this connection that the coordination already established between the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean and the mountain corps be utilized for this purpose.

2. Since the activity of German naval forces in the entire Scandinavian area is not otherwise directly connected with the defense of the coast under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Lapland, it is not deemed necessary to keep the Commanding General informed on naval matters other than those named under paragraph 1. This is motivated by the necessity of keeping all German naval operations secret; this means that information concerning preparation and execution of operations must be confined to as small a number of people as possible, because success depends so much on the element of surprise and strict secrecy, especially in view of our numerical inferiority.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

4 boats are assigned to the patrol line off the Swedish coast. Sailing by way of the Baltic Sea for the first time, a part of the 10th transport group arrived in Oslo, the rest in Kristiansand South. The Aalborg-Oslo convoy is proceeding according to plan. 3 independently routed ships are handling the remainder of transport operation "Elch", i.e., shipment of 3 fortress construction battalions (operation "Elch" involved shipment of 60,000 men). Thus operation "Elch", which was to be completed by 7 Apr., took only 10 days longer than planned. In view of ice conditions and other difficulties this accomplishment is worthy of recognition.

Icebreakers CASTOR, OSTPREUSSEN, and PREGEL have arrived in Duenamuende. The Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries reported that ice conditions at Riga have improved.

In view of the resumption of operations in the eastern part of the Baltic Sea, Group North issues instructions concerning the transfer and assignment of flotillas and individual ships to the Commander, Mine Sweepers, Baltic Sea. The Naval Staff is looking into the matter.

Copy according to 1/Skl 9044/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

Group North was informed by the Naval Staff of the order of the Air Force Operations Staff regarding mine laying in the sea channel from Leningrad to Kronstadt. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I E 8788/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

V. Merchant Shipping

1. Danish Shipping in 1941:

According to the report of the shipping expert at the Embassy in Copenhagen the distribution of the Danish merchant fleet was about the same in the beginning of 1941 as it was at the time Denmark was being occupied: About 1/3 of the fleet in the German-controlled area east of the line extending from Bergen to Emden; 1/3 in enemy harbors or in enemy service on the high seas; and 1/3 in neutral ports.

Throughout the year all seaworthy ships in German controlled areas were kept in full operation, at first carrying mostly supplies for Denmark, later on, however, for Germany as well. During the year covered by this report about 670,000 tons of ore were moved on Danish vessels compared with 200,000 tons in the previous year. While 9 ships totalling 16,735 GRT were lost due to enemy action, 3 vessels totalling 7,156 GRT sank through various accidents.

Little information is available on the ships confiscated by the enemy on 9 Apr. 1940; however, it is an ascertained fact that by the end of 1941, 33 of these vessels totalling 93,677 GRT had been lost through causes directly connected with the war.

Among the Danish ships seeking refuge in neutral ports 3 out of 5 in Chilean ports were confiscated on 15 Feb. 1941. Others were taken over by Peru and the U.S. in March. Thus a total of 39 ships, or 140,871 GRT were taken over by the U.S. Government. In the meanwhile these vessels as well as 1 more confiscated in August were either turned over to and operated by American shipping firms (the majority under the Panamanian flag) or are being managed by the U.S. Navy. 2 other ships were taken over by Uruguay. As these vessels were put in operation the Danish crews left their ships without exception. In the case of Argentina the shipowners have signed sales agreements with Argentina reserving the right to buy the ships back after the war. Negotiations with Brazil are still continuing. 4 of the confiscated ships totalling 10,621 GRT were lost transporting goods for Great Britain. The dealings of the German Embassy with the Danish shipowners and Danish authorities were without friction.

2. Report No. 9/42 of the Naval Staff, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch deals with the construction of merchant ships in Spain and with shipping traffic to and from the Indian Ocean.

In the beginning of 1942 Spanish shipyards had orders for 111 ships totalling 139,000 GRT including tankers totalling 64,000 GRT.

Information on ship movements in the Indian Ocean is given with the aid of detailed reports on the traffic in the harbors of Lourenco Marques, Beira, and Mozambique; on the ships carrying ore to the U.S. and Great Britain; as well as on ship movements in Mozambique.

> The information given on the shipment of copper ore out of Mozambique and Lourenco Marques is of special interest in view of the fact that shipments of this precious raw material may eventually go to Germany, if warfare in the Indian Ocean continues to develop favorably for the Axis.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

For the past few days air reconnaissance activity over the rendezvous area has been exceptionally active. On 17 Apr. these operations were concentrated over the area reaching from the Porcupine Bank to the Rockall Bank as far out as 16° W.

Radio Intelligence intercepted a submarine sighting report sent by the steamer BENJAMIN HOMSON east of Long Island as well as reports on submarine attacks off Cape Hatteras and 340 miles northwest of Bermuda.

2. Own Situation:

For detailed description of the operation against convoy PQ 14 see supplementary report on the situation.

The steamer POINT-PRAVA (approximately 5,000 GRT) carrying boilers and trucks was sunk in quadrant DC 3179 by gunfire by submarine U "123" (Lieutenant Hardegen). The submarine was on her return trip and used her last ammunition. This increases the total tonnage sunk by U "123" to almost 80,000 GRT.

For other successes of the operation in the eastern part of the Mediterranean see supplementary account of the situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

See the daily situation for details of the effective attack against Southampton during the night of 16 Apr. During the day enemy planes attacked Cherbourg and Rouen. The electric power plant in Rouen was damaged considerably. The enemy had to pay for this success with the loss of 21 planes, among them 6 bombers, which were shot down by German fighters.

During the night 44 German planes made another attack on Southampton.

90 to 100 enemy planes, 7 of which were shot down, attacked the Reich with Hamburg as the main target; considerable damage was done to houses, and to military, harbor, and traffic installations; there was considerable loss of life.

Between 1820 and 2125 10 to 12 other bombers coming from western France penetrated into the Reich by way of Lake Constance, returning by way of Augsburg, Stuttgart, Saarbruecken, and Cape Griz Nez. 3 of the attacking bombers were shot down by anti-aircraft fire in the Augsburg area. Fighter planes failed to make any contact with the enemy. The attack against Augsburg resulted in considerable damage to industry, especially the Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nuernberg. The production of diesel engine castings will consequently be reduced by 40% for an indefinite period.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Weather conditions handicapped operations, and it was impos-

sible to cover the area adequately by reconnaissance. Thus it is very likely that fast independently routed ships were able to carry supplies to Malta.

3. Eastern Front:

A steamer of 2,500 GRT coming from Sevastopol was sunk by a plane. East of Yalta a tanker of 7,000 GRT was sunk by an aerial torpedo after being pursued for several hours. A tanker of 8,000 GRT from convoy PQ 14 was damaged. For details see Situation Norway.

4. East Asia:

The Japanese General Staff reports that in the afternoon Tokyo was attacked by enemy planes, 3 of which were shot down. So far Washington has not confirmed this report.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Owing to the weather, the operation of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla has been cancelled.

3. Situation Italy:

The Commanding General, South informed the Commander in Chief, Navy that among other things the number of ferryboats and barges available will determine the time for the capture of Malta. In this connection the Italians urge that the construction of German barges in Italy be speeded up. A quick investigation by the Naval Staff and the Naval Construction Division revealed that the Italian shipyards could complete the landing craft sooner if they had more Italian labor available. The German Admiral in Rome was asked to make such a recommendation to the Italian Admiralty according to 1/Skl I op 779/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIII.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

According to plans. Nothing to report.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

The Italian Siena Division reports that the island of Koufonisi is once again free of enemy troops.

Black Sea:

Group South reports that on her last return voyage from Piraeus to Istanbul the Turkish relief ship DUMLUPINAR was taken under fire from Andros without suffering damage. The Turkish Government supposedly intends to present a note of protest to the Italian Government at once and to demand a guarantee prior to the ship's next voyage.

Inquiry with the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea revealed that there is no Italian but a German Army coastal artillery detachment on Andros. The fire was not aimed at the ship but off her bow in order to make her stop after she failed to answer the signals. Group South reports that it received assurances from the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea that in the future all commands concerned will be informed in time about the sailings of hospital and relief ships.

The Naval Attache in Istanbul was informed of the truth of the matter. (See Telegram 2010.)

For report of Group South to the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division concerning the difficulties in the shipping of fuel oil and diesel oil from Rumania see Telegram 2005. These difficulties are occasioned by measures instituted by Dr. Neubacher's office.

There are no other reports from the Black Sea.

IX. Situation East Asia:

The Military Attache in Tokyo reports that at present the main Japanese interest is concentrated on Burma, Ceylon, and the Indian Ocean. The Military Attache had been approached in a somewhat obvious manner by the Chief Quartermaster of Yamashita's army concerning a question previously raised by members of the Japanese Navy; namely the question of a Russo-German armistice. It was suggested that nothing stands in the way of such an armistice once the Volga and the southern Caucasus are in German hands. Germany and Japan should concentrate on Great Britain. In reply the Military Attache emphasized the necessity of defeating European Russia.

There are no other reports.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Sporadic fighting, for example north of Taganrog, east of Kharkov, and west of Livny. The roads are unpassable. Even horse-drawn carts have difficulty in getting through supplies. The flood waters of the Donets River are slowly receding.

Central Army Group:

Heavy fighting is continuing near Fomina. In that area the enemy is bringing up reinforcements for break-through to the north. Northwest of Yukhnov the enemy suffered heavy losses when his attacks against the positions at the Ugra collapsed. Northwest of Dorogobuzh several localities were taken. A partisan advance near Yasvino on the Smolensk-Elnya road was thrown back. Northwest of Rzhev the enemy is building bridges in 6 different places. Fighting is taking place near the Vitebsk-Vyelizh road.

Northern Army Group:

Tank attacks against the southern part of Kholm were repulsed with the aid of dive bombers. The German group attacking in the northwest sector of the Demyansk front advanced northeastward in the direction of the Lovat. The Seydlitz group is being reorganized for new attacks. Enemy attacks north of Lake Ilmen were repulsed. In the pocket south of Maluksa an enemy concentration was broken up by dive bombers. Along the Soltsy-Leningrad railroad line an enemy infantry and tank attack from the northwest is in progress.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

According to prisoner of war statements, the railroad from Byelomorsk to Obozerskaya is taxed heavily with shipments of American goods, greatly hampering supply transports for the enemy troops north of Lake Onega. At the other front sectors the situation remains unchanged. It looks as if the road across the ice of Lake Ladoga were no longer safe for traffic.

3. North Africa:

There was only little artillery and reconnaissance activity along the entire front owing to continuing sandstorms.

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18 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

The creation of the Laval cabinet has caused the foreign press to indulge in all sorts of speculations. The Times claims that it is the main ambition of the extremely clever and unscrupulous Laval to defeat his political rivals and that he would make only as many concessions to Germany as are needed to realize his own plans. The Times also pointed out that Germany is in favor of maintaining Franco-American relations for intelligence reasons. According to the United Press the government of the U.S. will demand that the new cabinet will definitely and categorically restate French neutrality.

It is assumed that Japan's demand for approximately 13 ships of Indo-China's merchant fleet will be accepted by the French Government.

Great Britain and Portugal:

Trans-Ocean reports that British-Portuguese relations have deteriorated considerably. For details see Political Review No. 90, Paragraph 3.

So far Japan has refused the Portuguese dispatch boat JOAO GOA to land on Timor because Australian troops on the island have received reinforcements. Moreover the Portuguese were advised against the transfer of dispatch boat JOAO DE LISBOA from Macao to Mozambique since the war situation does not permit the use of the wireless service by aliens.

Spain:

The fuel situation in Spain has become so acute that the Spanish Government has sent a very sharp demand to the U.S. to live up to the fuel delivery agreement which has not been complied with since October 1941. In the event that the demand is rejected it is planned to launch a systematic newspaper campaign against the U.S.

U.S.S.R.:

During the Easter holidays a pan-Slavic demonstration took place in Moscow under the chairmanship of the Russian General Gundurov, in the course of which representatives of the Slavic nations made inflammatory speeches against the New Europe.

Turkey:

Turkish diplomatic circles are of the opinion that Turkey should not hesitate to purchase arms from the U.S. under the lend-lease law, because the terms are unusually advantageous. These circles also think that Turkey will eventually join Germany as her old brother-in-arms as soon as the German troops will have reached the Caucasus. Inonu is believed determined to continue Ataturk's policy aiming at national rebirth and the strengthening of Turkish defense.

U.S.A.:

Sumner Welles explained that the American Ambassador to Vichy has

been recalled due to the fact that Laval is going to dominate the cabinet. The French note concerning Brazzaville was rejected because it had first been submitted for approval to the German Government. Sumner Welles called this the most regrettable incident of the past 150 years of unbroken friendly relations between France and the U.S.

Japan:

The Prime Minister has directed that election campaign speeches and election pamphlets should be checked as to whether they advocate a return in the near future to economic practices along the liberal principles.

Chungking China:

A reliable authority reports a further decrease of Russian influence in Chungking. According to this report a Japanese occupation of India is thoroughly opposed by the Asiatic peoples who have turned anti-Japanese since the outbreak of the China conflict. Even Wang Ching-Wei is said to be greatly disturbed by the annexation of Hong Kong. The Filipinos are said to be fighting faithfully on the American side, and the opposition in Siam and Indo-China is on the increase. However there is just as much opposition to a Russian occupation of India.

Special Items

I. With respect to the Fuehrer decree concerning the resumption of terror attacks by the 3rd Air Force against Great Britain, the liaison officers assigned to the Armed Forces High Command and the Air Force Operations Staff have ascertained that the text involved constitutes a revised version. The original text called for the commitment of forces at the expense of naval warfare, which meant that aerial mine warfare was to be abandoned completely. A chart appended to the report of the 3rd Air Force (see War Diary 16 Apr.) which showed the successes of aerial mine warfare, was kept by General Bodenschatz for some time before it was presented to the Fuehrer. On 15 Apr. the Chief, Air Force General Staff showed the chart to the Fuehrer personally. The latter was greatly impressed by the results achieved so far with aerial mines and expressed regret that he had never been shown such a chart before. The directive was then changed to its present wording, whereby aerial mine warfare is curtailed but not completely discontinued.

II. High Pressure Steam Boiler. The change-over to high pressure steam for the purpose of obtaining greater engine power without increasing space and weight requirements is called a "notorious failure" in the Naval Construction memorandum of 27 Mar. 1942, No. 540/42 Gkdos.

> This failure had such a far-reaching effect on the conduct of operations that the measures taken to remedy this situation must be carried out regardless of any other difficulties. Naval Staff demands regarding naval construction are contained in a detailed memorandum of the Operations Division, Naval Staff of February 1941. This document can be found in the memorandum file of the War Diary under 1/Skl 1492/41.

III. A report of the conference of the Commander in Chief, Navy with the Fuehrer on 13 Apr. makes reference to the constant serious curtailment of the naval armament program as the result of inadequate priority ratings and insufficient allocation of raw materials and labor. The effect of these practices is set forth by the Naval Ordnance Division, War Economy Branch in a detailed report complete with charts illustrating the decline in production. Copy of this report is found under 1/Skl 8540/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

IV. Information submitted to the Naval Ordnance Division, War Economy Branch by the Foreign Economic Intelligence Group Hamburg-Bremen (Aufklaerungsausschuss Hamburg-Bremen) indicates that the annual production figure for American planes is now close to 50,000. The performance of the "flying fortresses" are said to be disappointing. Therefore their production quota will be reduced in favor of an increase in the production of medium-sized bombers and a large number of fighter planes.

It is safe to assume that today the U.S. is making about 3,000 planes per month.

Situation 18 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Atlantic:

An agent report confirms that Norfolk and Halifax are the main ports of departure for convoys sailing by way of the North Atlantic, and that San Juan on Puerto Rico is the port of departure for traffic through the South Atlantic. So far no convoys were employed in the South Atlantic, only patrols of light naval forces. With the beginning of April, however, convoys are to sail as far as Natal. The Naval Attache in Buenos Aires gave the same information. It is also reported that fast, individually routed vessels will be assigned to the South American run, keeping a distance of approximately 200 miles from the coast; tankers will definitely sail in convoy.

Pacific Ocean:

The mine warning off New Zealand on 16 Apr. has turned out to be an error.

2. Own Situation:

The following short-code signal was received from ship "28": "Please dispatch supply ship to rendezvous point 'Aleppo'. Repeat refuelling operation, involving the same tanker, in August or September."

Confirmation by Radiogram 0220.

Radiogram 1033 carried instructions to the TANNENFELS to take over prisoners from ship "10", who are now aboard the REGENSBURG, and to turn them over to the Japanese in accordance with instructions from the Naval Attache in Tokyo.

Radiogram 1127 was sent to the DOGGERBANK informing her that a mine warning from Radio Simonstown was decoded, involving the following area: 33° 56' S,17° 31' E; 34° 10' 30" S,17° 40' 30" E; and 33° 52'S, 18° 19' E.

Radiogram 1857 was sent to ship "10" informing her that owing to Japanese operations a new operational area has been agreed upon with the Japanese Navy. The new area extends as follows: 45° S, 60° E; 35° S, 60° E; 15° S, 85° E; 15° S, 90° E; 25° S, 110° E; 45° S, 110° E; taking effect as of 20 Apr.

The Naval Staff anticipates that the Japanese Navy will begin operations outside of this area early in May.

Ship "10" was informed by Radiogram 2223, copy to ship "28", that her request for a plane and torpedoes will probably be met.

In view of other plans concerning ship "23" it will not be possible to send the supply ship to point "Aleppo", as requested by ship "28". The CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN is to mark time in a waiting area as originally planned (see War Diary 8 Apr.). In order to utilize all available supplies on behalf of ship "28" the following plans were made: After completion of her mining operation off Cape Agulhas the DOGGERBANK is instructed to proceed to the southwestern corner of the area "Komponisten" where she is to turn over supplies to ship "28" sometime in June. In August or September ship "28" will be supplied again by the SCHLIEMANN, whose first mission will be to supply ship "23" in June.

Ship "10" was informed accordingly by Radiogram 2046.

Complying with the Naval Staff's suggestion (see War Diary 13 Apr.) the Italian East Africa steamers will not make port in Capetown but in Port Elizabeth. This information was sent to all ships in foreign waters by Radiograms 0418, 0204, and 1249, instructing them also of the position of group "Alfa" as of 15 and 16 Apr.

Radiogram 1631 was sent with information on the enemy situation.

An operational order of the Operations Division, Naval Staff directs the auxiliary cruiser ship "23" to conduct cruiser warfare in foreign waters. The main object of the ship's operation is to tie up enemy forces in order to relieve the pressure on the homeland and indirectly to inflict damage on the enemy through her presence. In doing so it is more important to keep enemy forces tied up and occupied over lengthy periods of time than to achieve a great number of sinkings at the expense of a rapid depletion of available fighting resources. This objective can be achieved by capturing or sinking enemy ships or neutral ships in the service of the enemy. After all possibilities have been exhausted the auxiliary cruiser is to return to Western France or proceed to a Japanese naval base. Operations are to be concentrated in the southern part of the Atlantic and the western part of the Indian Ocean; if the situation requires, the operational area may be temporarily shifted to the eastern part of the Indian Ocean or the southern part of the Pacific Ocean.

The transfer of the ship to the West Area will be effected under orders from Group North; her passage through the Bay of Biscay into the North Atlantic will be directed by Group West. After she has crossed 30° W the Naval Staff will take over command.

Copy of operational order under 1/Skl I k 686/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in

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II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

At 0750 air reconnaissance sighted 2 southbound tankers northeast of Santander.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Group West sent Radiogram 0011 to the DRESDEN informing her that on 17 Apr. the Italian blockade-runner FUSIJAMA probably was at approximately 43° N, 15° 30' W, heading for the Spanish coast.

1 ground mine was swept off La Pallice and 2 ground mines off St. Nazaire. During the night of 17 Apr. enemy planes attacked St Nazaire. The tanker PASSAT was hit and suffered casualties. Considerable damage was inflicted on buildings in the city. The Loire estuary was closed because of the danger of aerial mines.

Channel Coast:

The 4th PT Boat Flotilla has been transferred from the Hook of Holland to Ostend.

Organization:

The Commander in Chief, Navy has decided to uphold the directive of Group West to the effect that the Commanding Admiral, France is to release certain seaworthy vessels and transfer them to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West for patrol service. (See War Diary 12 Apr.)

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reports that at 1415 a naval force was sighted on a 170° to 180° course in quadrant AN 1111 (west of the Shetlands), proceeding at medium speed. It consisted of 1 aircraft carrier of the ILLUSTRIOUS class, 2 battleships of the KING GEORGE V class, a cruiser of the SOUTHAMPTON class, 2 destroyers of the JAVELIN class,and 1 unidentified destroyer.

Photographic reconnaissance over Scapa Flow at 1345 revealed 1 American battleship of the NORTH CAROLINA class, 1 American cruiser of the WICHITA class, 1 American cruiser of the ASTORIA class, 1 light cruiser evidently of the FIJI class, and 7 destroyers. This seems to prove that the American convoy which was reported west of Scapa Flow on 15 Apr. has entered the harbor by now.

In the morning 10 to 12 northbound merchant ships were sighted off

Duncansbay Head. At noon 20 to 30 steamers were sighted assembling in the Firth of Moray. In the morning a northbound convoy was sighted off Harwich. In the afternoon the radio intercept service of the Air Force located another convoy in the Thames River.

Own Situation:

During the night of 17 Apr. numerous enemy planes made incursions into the coastal area of the German Bight and the Netherlands; 3 of the planes were shot down by naval anti-aircraft fire. Some of the planes fired correct German recognition signals. German fighter planes were very active. At 0600 an enemy plane about to make a low-level attack on the tanker EUROSEE was shot down. 3 patrol boats and 4 harbor-patrol boats provided anti-aircraft protection for the EUROSEE.

Escort and patrol duty is proceeding according to plan.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

A submarine reports that convoy PQ 14 was located by hydrophone in quadrant AC 5584 at 2311 on 17 Apr.

A Russian submarine (S class) was sighted in quadrant 9327, north-northeast of Tromsoe.

Own Situation:

Operation against PQ 14:

At 0700 a line of 8 submarines extended from quadrant AC 8251 to quadrant AC 5979. By 1300 no contact had been made as yet because the weather had turned worse and visibility had become much poorer. Therefore 6 submarines proceeded eastward at maximum speed to take up new positions off Kola Bay. They will remain there until the evening of 19 Apr. in order to intercept the convoy in the event it is delayed, or to intercept stragglers and damaged vessels. The submarines directly under the command of Group North were released. Air reconnaissance was not possible due to the thaw, which kept planes on the ground. Therefore the Admiral, Arctic Ocean announced that the submarine operation is practically over.

Unpredicted strong westerly winds of forces 9 compelled the flotilla commander to break off the operation of the destroyer group. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean mentioned in this connection that the mining operation could not have been carried out either in this kind of weather.

The Admiral, Arctic Ocean stated that the strength of both the close and remote escort forces, the absence of darkness, and the difficulties caused by the weather toward the end of the operation were the reasons for the meager results of the operation as a whole. "Operational control was not too difficult. As long as the nights are bright, greater successes cannot be expected in this area under similar conditions unless additional fighting forces are assigned." (See Telegram 2335).

Report on the Situation by the Commanding Admiral, Norway:

On 17 Apr. a German who had been interned in England and

escaped, landed on Holmengraa by motorboat. On 18 Apr. destroyer Z "28", torpedo boats T "7" and T "16" and the TSINGTAU left Stavanger for Bergen, and the mine layers ULM and ROLAND left Aalesund for Kristiansund North.

Escort and transport service are proceeding according to plan.

In the afternoon of 17 Apr. enemy planes were active near Trondheim and between 0400 and 0600 on 18 Apr. near Stavanger and Lister.

Security Measures in Norway:

The Commanding Admiral, Norway designated Svolvaer, in the area of the Admiral, Polar Coast, as operational base for the 6th PT Boat Flotilla.

With respect to the protection of Trondheim Fjord, the Commanding Admiral, Norway asks for reconsideration of his request for artillery protection and a subchaser flotilla of 12 boats. He feels that otherwise it will not be possible to close off Trondheim Fjord as planned by the Naval Staff. (See Telegram 1320.)

In compliance with the Fuehrer's directive, transmitted by the Armed Forces Operations Staff (see War Diary 14 Mar., Special Items), the report which the Commander in Chief, Navy was expected to make concerning measures already carried out as planned, is forwarded to the Armed Forces Operations Staff by the Naval Staff: Commitment of 20 submarines, cooperation of the Navy and Air Force Operations Staffs, exchange of liaison officers, agreement between Group North and the 5th Air Force. Copy under 1/Skl I op 773/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

The steamers POTSDAM and GNEISENAU are in the Great Belt en route from Oslo to Kiel.

Group North reports on the state of planning for the Baltic Campaign of 1942 and the result of the conference with the 1st Air Force and with the Finns:

Due to the regrettable fact that Shepel, Lavansaari, and Seiskari were not captured, the strong mine barrage planned for the innermost part of the Finnish Gulf will have to be laid further west as far as the line running from the Finnish coastal islands east of Hogland, east of Tytersaari to Cape Kurgalo. The Finns are to lay the mines north of Hogland, the Commander, Mine Sweepers south of Hogland. Additional barrages are to be laid between Porkkala and the eastern approach of Tallinn, and smaller barrages north and south of the Juminda mine field. The Seiskari, Lavansaari, and Shepel area will be mined. All barrages will be effective against both surface vessels and submarines. The Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries will mine the Kronstadt sea channel, and the waters around Kronstadt will be mined by the 1st Air Force in accordance with directions from Group North. Mines are to be shipped to Tallinn and Helsinki. 10 coastal motor ships will serve as mine-laying vessels. Stores of mines for the major mine fields will be kept on Tytersaari. The Finns will operate in the Hogland-Bjoerkoe area out of Kotka and Hogland; they will have submarines east of the Nargen barrage and a PT boat base at Peipia or Ruchi. At first the base of operations for the Commander,

Mine Sweepers will be Kotka. Shipping lanes are to be swept. For the time being merchant shipping in the Baltic Sea is to remain unrestricted. Harbor barrages must not consist of mines. Preparations should be made for the defense of the Gjedser strait and the entrances to the Baltic Sea.

For copy of report see 1/Skl 9161/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

V. Merchant Shipping:

According to the Armed Forces High Command, Special Staff for Economic Warfare preparations for operation "Suedsee" (Northeast Passage of 4 steamers) need to be continued only as far as preparations for 1943 are concerned. In July of this year the Armed Forces High Command will decide whether or not plans for 1943 shall continue.

The order to carry out the operation in the summer of 1942, a rather risky undertaking, was doubtlessly a heavy burden for the Naval Staff. On the other hand, in view of the fact that the enemy is concentrating his ships and escort forces in the Atlantic, the possibilities of this route to and from Japan should not be completely disregarded.

For copy of the above memorandum to the Chief, Naval Staff see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XI.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence a plane unsuccessfully attacked a surfaced submarine with depth charges southwest of Brest. A submarine warning signal was intercepted from the British steamer LA CORDILLIERA (5,185 GRT) 500 miles southeast of Cape Palmas. Reports of submarine sightings were intercepted from off the U.S. coast, originating in the Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout areas, as well as off the East Coast of Florida. A submarine warning signal was sent by an American steamer in the Florida Strait.

2. Own Situation:

For conclusion of the operation against PQ 14 see Situation Norway and the supplementary report on the situation.

Submarine U "571" reports the sinking of a steamer of 8,000 GRT off the American coast. Off Cape Hatteras the submarine sighted a dirigible.

Submarine U "562" reports from the Mediterranean the completion of operation "Morgenstern".

Submarine U "116" had been put at the disposal of the Mining and Barrage Inspectorate fully loaded to lay a trial mine field for the purpose of testing the new SMA mine (Rack Mine Type A). The mine field was laid in the Skagerrak. 1 mine exploded by self-detonation after becoming active. Therefore the Mining and Barrage Inspectorate

asks that the Commander, Submarines keep submarine U "116" ready to lay another trial mine field, since the result of the first test does not permit the release of the SMA mine for operational use for the time being. The Commander, Submarines replied that submarine U "116" is leaving Bergen for the Atlantic and that the next boat of type XB that becomes available may be used to lay the new trial mine field. This arrangement is satisfactory to the Naval Staff. Final decision as to the operational use of SMA mines will be made later.

The Naval Staff, Submarine Division reports that on 15 Apr. 3 submarines of type II b (the U "9", U "19", and U "24"), scheduled for transfer to the Black Sea, were lying in Stettin. As soon as ice conditions permit they will proceed to Kiel. According to rough estimates it will take each boat about 26 weeks to transfer to Constanta. They are to start in intervals of 3 weeks. The transfer will be expedited as much as possible, so that the last boat will have reached its destination before the Danube freezes over in the winter of 1942.

Preparations for the shipment of the Italian submarines of Type CB from La Spezia to Constanta have reached a stage where it will be possible for these boats to start on their way very soon. The first submarine is expected to leave any day now.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

For results of reconnaissance see Enemy Situation North Sea and West Area. During the night 44 German planes took off to attack Grimsby.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Bombers, dive bombers, and fighters successfully attacked targets still intact in Valletta, torpedo and tank depots in Marsa Scirocco, airfield installations and planes on the ground, as well as 14 anti-aircraft positions. It is believed that supplies reaching Malta by air include anti-aircraft ammunition. Instructions went out therefore that the seaplane bases on Malta be patrolled constantly.

3. Eastern Front:

No particular results were observed in the course of a mission flown by 25 He 111's against Novorossisk and Kerch. During the attack of 17 Ju 88's on the harbor and airfield of Sevastopol hits were observed on warehouses, pier installations, barracks, and hangars. 13 He 111's carrying bombs and torpedoes went on an unsuccessful mission over the waters south of the Crimea and along the coast of the Caucasus. For the operation against PQ 14 see Situation Norway.

Group North submitted a request to the Air Force Operations Staff for 2 flights of 3 Ju 88's each for reconnaissance and bombing missions of the 1st Air Force, because the 1st Air Force has no planes available to support naval warfare in the Gulf of Finland where these planes are urgently needed by the Commander, Mine Sweepers, Baltic Sea for reconnaissance duty.

The Naval Staff will take the necessary action.

4. Special Items:

On 11 Apr. 1942 the Fuehrer made the following decision:

"The aerial torpedo weapon has proven its outstanding value to an increasing extent. It is advisable to do everything to perfect the aerial torpedo for use by planes and to increase its production.

I therefore order:

The Navy is to turn over to the Air Force the development and production of aerial torpedoes.

The transfer is to be effected on the basis of the agreement reached between the 2 branches of the Armed Forces on 3 Mar. 1942."

Instructions to this effect were issued by the Naval Ordnance Division, Torpedo Branch.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

1 cruiser of the DIDO class and 1 of the CAIRO class entered Gibraltar from the west. The following ships are now in that port: The EAGLE and 1 AURORA-class cruiser in dock, the ARGUS, MAIDSTONE, the 2 cruisers just arrived, 2 auxiliary cruisers, 9 destroyers, 2 gunboats, 1 passenger steamer, 28 steamers, and 9 tankers. In the morning submarines were sighted off Kerkenna, Cape Colonna, and south of the Otranto Strait. There was little convoy traffic between Alexandria and Tobruk. Off Alexandria 2 PT boats were sighted approaching the harbor.

According to Italian reports new mines have been laid in the southern approach to the port of Gibraltar. It is claimed that the submarine flotilla command was transferred from Malta to Alexandria.

2. Situation Italy:

In the evening of 17 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi. No damage was caused. On 16 Apr. an enemy submarine sank the Italian coal steamer DELIA (5,406 GRT) which was bound from Bari to Taranto.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

At 0730 on 18 Apr. an enemy submarine sank the steamer BELLONA which was en route from Brindisi to Benghazi, carrying 771 tons of supplies for the Armed Forces. On 17 Apr. 3 steamers of the 6th Transport Squadron left Tripoli for Italy without cargo.

All other shipping traffic is proceeding according to plan.

In connection with the loss of the BELLONA the German Naval Command, Italy reports as follows: It is no longer possible to supply Rommel's Panzer Army sufficiently with the number of German ships left. It seems that the only way to solve this vital problem is to fall back on the ships carrying supplies to Greece. Due to the fact that this office does not know the entire situation, it cannot make any further concrete suggestions. This report is being made since it is expected

that the German General in charge of transports to North Africa and the Commanding General, South will take action in the above matter. It remains essential that Italian merchant vessels be utilized more than in the past.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

12 miles west of the Dardanelles a German plane dropped bombs on an enemy submarine. It is assumed that the boat sank.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence submarines were operating in the southwestern part of the Black Sea.

Own Situation:

7 transport ships with 24,300 tons of supplies for the Armed Forces are lying in Constanta and Sulina ready to sail. On 20 Apr. convoy service is to be resumed again by 1 group of the Donau Flotilla and 2 Rumanian torpedo boats.

IX. Situation East Asia

The U.S. Navy Department announced the loss of mine sweeper FINCH.

On 17 and 18 Apr. Japanese cities were attacked from the air.

Stubborn Chinese resistance is reported from the Burma front.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Situation unchanged.

Central Army Group:

Fighting was reported in progress near Fomina, around Yukhnov, as well as in the rear area southwest of Vyazma. Enemy attacks near Rzhev, Byeloi, and southwest of Velizh were unsuccessful, and the enemy suffered considerable losses.

Northern Army Group:

At the Demyansk front the Eicke group advanced as far as the Lovat River. The Von Seydlitz group repulsed enemy attacks. The situation at the point of penetration near Maluksa is still undecided.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

On 15 and 16 Apr. the enemy suffered very heavy losses in the fighting west of Oshta.

3. North Africa:

Reconnaissance and artillery activity on both sides.

On 18 Apr. the sandstorms still did not subside.

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19 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

A decree of 18 Apr. establishes Laval as head of the French Government. As such he is answerable only to the head of the state, suggests to him the men to be appointed to cabinet posts and is responsible to him for his actions. In another official statement Darlan's position is outlined; he is designated as the successor of the head of the state and as such made Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. In a message to the French people, on 19 Apr., Petain informed them of the changes made. For details see Political Review, No. 91, Paragraph 2.

The Spanish Naval Attache reports that a Spanish naval captain sent to Toulon for inspections, was greatly impressed by the fact that the French naval officers almost to a man are strongly anti-British. The officers look upon Darlan as their leader and hate Great Britain.

Great Britain:

The Naval Ordnance Division, War Economy Branch gathers from a number of reports made by the Foreign Economic Intelligence Group, Hamburg-Bremen (Aufklaerungsauschuss Hamburg-Bremen) that the British population desires a more aggressive conduct of the war in order to end it as early as possible. Although the standard of living has gone down and will continue to go down, the will to win the war obviously still exists.

The shortage of shipping space, which is constantly growing due to the activity of the German submarines, is making itself felt and according to accounts published even determines strategic thinking. It is estimated that the present output of the British and American shipping industry is smaller than was expected at the beginning of the year.

The committee believes that it is the aim of Allied strategy to hold present positions and to attack lines of communications and weak points of the Axis.

The defense of Australia will be left to the Americans. There is a lack of officers in the colonial army. India is considered more endangered than Australia.

Portugal:

Based on a discussion with the Assistant Secretary of State in the Portuguese Ministry of War, the Military Attache, Lisbon reports that the alleged threat to Mozambique by the South African Union is not considered very serious. In spite of that, reinforcements are being continued because the otherwise excellent relations with the Union seem threatened by the repeated accusation, so far unsubstantiated, that Germans in the Portuguese colonies are responsible for the internal unrest in the Union. Another threat is seen in the possibility that the South Africans may feel obliged to advance on Madagascar, through Mozambique, in the event that Madagascar is threatened by Japan. On the other hand the Assistant Secretary also believes that a Japanese threat to the French island is unlikely because as soon as the Japanese get their hands free in the Far East, they will probably move in the direction of Aden in order to seek direct contact with

Germany. The attache also reported that the prestige of the White Race in the Far East received a deadly blow by Japan's victories. Moreover the Spaniards are treated better by the British than the Portuguese, with whom the British are officially allied. He stressed in particular the almost unbelievable confidence in ultimate victory which still prevails in Great Britain, which no reasoning can shake, and which the Portuguese official himself feels to be unjustified. For the time being at least a British landing in Portugal seems unlikely. However, it could be expected with certainty the moment Gibraltar is attacked. The islands in the Atlantic,on the other hand, are constantly threatened. Ever since negotiations concerning the use of these islands by the Allies failed, Great Britain has attempted to achieve her aim by fostering an opposition movement inside Portugal.

U.S.A.:

According to the American press U.S. production lags behind the figures given by Roosevelt in January. Plane production, totalling 3,000 planes a month, is satisfactory but is constantly threatened by shortages. Most critical of all is the construction of merchant ships, where superhuman efforts would be required to achieve the quotas set. Tank and anti-aircraft production is handicapped by the lack of machine tools. Due to the lack of shipping space, storage facilities are packed to the limit.

According to information from German experts, the importance of Argentine exports to the U.S. has risen considerably since the outbreak of the war. The following goods are in particular demand: Wool, raw hides, tanning matter, glycerine, milk products, and tungsten. An increase in the export of linseed is also anticipated. Although the U. S. is not dependent on Argentine imports the loss of these supplies would make itself felt very much. Nevertheless any far-reaching break in the commercial relations between the 2 countries would be more disadvantageous for Argentina than for the U.S. On the other hand it would be a much greater blow to Great Britain if she were to receive no more shipments of Argentine meat and agricultural products.

Japan:

Japan has requested the French Government to close her consulates in Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, and Batavia.

Special Items:

Supplementary to the report of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West on the British operation against St. Nazaire on 28 Mar., the Armed Forces Operations Staff calls the attention of the authorities concerned to several other measures which must be taken: It is up to the Army to defend all vital points; this applies especially to all major naval bases. Installations must be fortified locally and must be manned at all times. Alarm signal equipment and weapons for close combat must be ready at all times. All patrols and sentries must be kept adequately informed as to our ship movements. Lighting equipment besides searchlights should be held in readiness to be used as the tactical commander sees fit in any particular situation.

For copy of directive of the Armed Forces Operations Staff see 1/Skl 9204/42 Gkdos. in reference file "British Landing at St. Nazaire 28 Mar. 1942".

Situation 19 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Radiogram 2103 was sent to the WARTENFELS with instructions concerning radio communications.

Radiogram 0307 was sent to ship "10" informing her of planned operations of Japanese submarines and auxiliary cruisers outside the German operational area in the Indian Ocean; the route taken by the Japanese submarine bound for western France; and the order to the REGENSBURG to proceed to her waiting position.

Radiogram 1505 was sent to the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN informing her that Naval Staff orders of 8 Apr. are in force and that she is to disregard contradictory orders of ship "28".

Radiogram 1846 was sent to all ships in foreign waters informing them of the positions of the Italian East Africa ships as of 18 Apr. and their routes from Port Elizabeth to Djibuti.

Radiogram 1610 carried information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance over the Irish Sea sighted only unescorted single ships. The Lufthansa reports that a British patrol vessel was sighted 6 miles northwest of Cape de Roca, the same ship which on 17 Apr. sank without warning the Portuguese steamer TRANSPORTADOR (200 GRT) carrying goods for Switzerland. The official Portuguese announcement denies this report given by the Naval Attache, Lisbon.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

In view of the danger caused by short nights and the presence of a British patrol boat reported off Lisbon, the steamer ERGO postponed her departure originally set for 19 Apr. It is planned to send 2 FW 200's to eliminate the British vessel.

Channel Coast:

The 2nd and 4th PT Boat Flotilla are on a mine-laying operation east of **Ordfordness.** The report of a bomb hit on the tanker PASSAT on 18 Apr. proved a mistake. The bomb fell short about 40 meters, causing damage by fragmentation only.

Special Items:

The Commanding General, Armed Forces, West transmitted the

suggestions of the 7th Army High Command concerning the organization of the occupation troops for the islands in the Atlantic off the coast of western France as well as the request of the 7th Army High Command to send the troops for the occupation of Belle Ile, Ile de Noirmoutier, and Ile d'Yeu as the first ones to Vannes and Challans. The Commanding Admiral, France reports the proposed deployment of these troops in accordance with instructions of the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

For copies of the telegrams concerned see 1/Skl 9175, 9205, 9206, and 9218/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

At 2300 on 18 Apr. the armed steamer SEEFAHRER hit a mine 1.2 miles east of buoy D on route "Braun" and sank. 6 men are missing, among them the captain and the executive officer. In a belated report the Commanding Admiral, Netherlands discloses that during the night of 17 Apr. German patrol boats made contact with the enemy off Ijmuiden.

The Armed Forces Operations Staff has arranged for a conference under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief, Armed Forces Operations Staff to be held at headquarters of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Netherlands on 22 Apr. The Naval High Command and the Commanding General, Armed Forces, West were asked to send representatives to the conference which will deal with the division of the Netherlands into sectors, and matters pertaining to command jurisdiction in connection with Fuehrer Directive No. 40. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff will attend to further arrangements.

2. Norway, Arctic Ocean:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance in the Iceland area reports that in the afternoon 4 steamers were sighted sailing in column from Eyja Fjord (North Coast). 2 steamers of 1,000 to 2,000 GRT were sighted in the Isa Fjord. No other ship movements were reported.

North of Murmansk a convoy, evidently convoy PQ 14, consisting of 18 to 20 steamers was sighted approaching the harbor. 1 cruiser and 10 to 12 steamers were sighted in Kola Bay. According to prisoner of war statements the icebreaker JOSEF STALIN, severely damaged in the air raid of 15 Jan., is at present in the Molotovsk shipyard. Repairs will not be completed before 1943. It is claimed that the damaged icebreaker LENIN, also under repair there, will be ready for operations in May 1942.

Own Situation:

Operation against PQ 14. After discussing the matter again with the Commander, Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean reports that although at the time it was not given as the main reason for breaking off the operation on 12 Apr., the fact that the weapons were covered with ice may possibly justify the decision of the flotilla commander. (See Telegram 2120.)

After the completion of the exceptionally difficult operation against convoy PQ 14, Group North commended all submarines participating, in particular submarine U "403" for the sinkings accomplished, submarine U "376" for her successful fan of 3, and submarine U "456" for her excellent performance in keeping contact with the convoy.

Report on the Situation by the Commanding Admiral, Norway. The mine layers BRUMMER and KAISER left Trondheim for Kristiansund North. They are ready for operations. Transport and escort service is continuing according to plan. The unloading of the SIMON VON UTRECHT is being continued. Destroyer Z "28", torpedo boats T "7", and T "16", and the TSINGTAU are still en route north.

On 16 and 17 Apr. enemy planes were active over Petsamo, on 18 Apr. over Trondheim, and on 18 and 19 Apr. over the Bergen area.

The Commanding Admiral, Battleships reports that the findings made on the trial runs of the PRINZ EUGEN revealed that the ship is capable of operating at a basic speed of 18 knots inside the fjords without jury-rudder and that she can operate outside the fjords in seas of 4 to 5. (See Telegram 1130 of 17 Apr.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Escort service in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea is proceeding without incidents according to plan.

On the basis of information from the 1st Air Force, Group North reports that the Russians have approximately 150 planes in the Leningrad area, and that they are using them above all for patrol flights covering the Kronstadt Bay to safeguard supplies for the island. Operations of German naval forces must take the presence of these planes into account. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl 15012 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

In reply to an inquiry from the Armed Forces Operations Staff, the Naval Staff explains what German naval forces are available for operations on Lake Ladoga. Siebel ferries, coastal mine layers, and Italian subchasers can be transferred there from Finland. The Armed Forces High Command was asked to instruct the Army High Command to make 30 Siebel ferries available for this purpose. 6 coastal mine layers which are to be completed by the end of May are to be sent to the Black Sea, while 4 other boats to be completed by July will be reserved for Lake Ladoga. The transfer of the Italian subchasers is still under examination.

For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I op 9152/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

As for the assignment of naval forces to the eastern part of the Baltic Sea, Group North reports that the operational plans are jeopardized unless at least 6 mine sweepers "35" will be ready for operations by 1 May. Group North requests in this connection that the time to be spent in the shipyard by the 3rd Mine Sweeper Flotilla be shortened and that the assignment of 1 boat each of the 7th and 6th Mine Sweeper Flotillas to the Mining and Harbor Defense School be cancelled.

Naval Staff will contact Group North concerning the assignment of the 7th Mine Sweeper Flotilla.

Group North orders that as of 1 May the Commanding Admiral, Baltic Countries will be subordinate directly to Group North as regards the coastal area east of Baltic Port. (See Telegram 1841.)

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

A number of submarine sighting signals were intercepted originating off the American coast. All U.S. warships in the West Indies were informed of a submarine attack in Bull Bay on Curacao. In connection with this attack the government in Willemstad announced that the submarine opened fire on the oil installations of Bull Bay and that the submarine submerged when the coastal battery opened fire.

Reuter reports the loss of the French submarine SURCOUF, which belonged to De Gaulle's naval forces. This boat of 2,880 GRT has long been overdue.

2. Own Situation:

Subsequent to the end of the operation against convoy PQ 14 the 6 boats operating off Kola Bay were ordered into Kirkenes.

In the North Atlantic submarine U "252" must be given up as lost. Like submarines U "82" and U "587" the boat was lost in the course of an operation against a convoy in large quadrant BE. It is quite possible that they were the victims of submarine traps. For details see supplementary submarine situation.

Reports of Successes:

Submarine U "572" reports from off the American coast that she sank a U.S. steamer of 10,000 GRT, and a steamer of 5,000 GRT. Submarine U "564" reports the sinking of another U.S. steamer of 10,000 GRT, and submarine U "136" of a steamer of 6,000 GRT.

From the West Indies submarine U "66" reported sinking steamer CORINTHIAN (3,122 GRT), a tanker of 8,000 GRT, and tanker HEINRICH VON RIEDEMANN (11,020 GRT); submarine U "130" reported sinking steamer GRENANGER (5,393 GRT), tanker ESSO BOSTON (7,699 GRT) and reported shelling oil installations in Bull Bay. This represents a total of 66,234 GRT of newly sunk enemy ships.

In the course of operation "Morgenstern" 3 additional sailing vessels were sunk in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the mine-laying missions were executed as planned. The electric power plant at Jaffa was taken under fire as planned, and several hits were observed.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

For report on the effects of the night attack on Grimsby see daily situation. During the night of 19 Apr. no German planes went up. There was very little enemy air activity over the north German coastal area and the occupied territories.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

In continuation of the attacks on Malta a steamer lying in Valletta was hit, a barge was sunk and another one damaged. It was also reported that a submarine may have been hit by depth charges north of Malta.

3. Eastern Front:

No reports were received from the Army fronts, the Black Sea, and the Baltic Sea.

The convoy sighted by air reconnaissance in the Arctic Ocean off Murmansk is to be attacked while unloading.

The Air Force Operations Staff requests the opinion of the Naval Staff concerning possible use of anti-aircraft artillery and searchlights in areas where night fighting is ordinarily carried out without searchlights. Copy of the suggested arrangement under 1/Skl 9197/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

According to an intelligence report from Spain 2 U.S. destroyers of the CRAVEN and the CASE class arrived in Gibraltar on 18 Apr. The 2 cruisers of the DIDO and the CAIRO class which arrived in Gibraltar on 18 Apr., left again escorted by 7 destroyers, destination unknown, during the night of 18 Apr.

Fishermen reported sighting 2 large eastbound ships between Tarifa and Carnero at 0230. Intelligence Center, Spain assumes that they are the 2 cruisers of the DIDO and the CAIRO class which put to sea during the night.

No British submarines have been sighted by German air reconnaissance in Valletta since 17 Apr. On 19 Apr. air reconnaissance between Alexandria and Marsa Matruh sighted 5 westbound freighters escorted by a number of PT boats, and 1 eastbound freighter north-northeast of Alexandria.

According to reliable information the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South reports that 2 light cruisers have left the Mediterranean for the Indian Ocean, where Admiral Somerville is assembling a new force with ships from Capetown and the Mediterranean. An aircraft carrier is also reported on the way to the Indian Ocean, supposedly to replace the HERMES.

It has been possible for some time now to decode the daily reports sent by the U.S. official Feller in Cairo to the War Department in Washington. Based on data supplied by the British Navy he reported on 16 Apr. that recently the Axis sent an additional 100 planes, 100 men air force personnel, and 30,000 tons of war material to Rhodes and Leros, and that anti-aircraft artillery in Patras, Salonika, and Piraeus is manned by German personnel which has also control over the ports of Salamis and Piraeus. During the past 3 months supplies arriving in Crete by ship amounted to a total of 160,000 tons. Based on information supplied by RAF intelligence the report put the number of German planes

on Sicily at 450, while Army Intelligence is quoted as estimating the German troops on that island at 1 division. Army Intelligence emphasizes however that there are no ships assembled that might carry an expeditionary force to Malta. It is assumed that there are Axis parachute troops on Crete or in Italy.

The report sent on 17 Apr. reveals that the obliteration of Malta from the air has progressed very well, and that this island has ceased to function as a naval base.

2. Own Situation:

7 boats of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla are planning a mining operation off Malta during the night of 19 Apr. After completion of her repairs motor mine sweeper R "13" arrived in Pantellaria on 19 Apr. en route to Tripoli.

3. Situation Italy:

Nothing to report.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Shipments of supplies to Tripoli, Benghazi, and coastal supply traffic proceeded according to plan.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

The commander of Group 126 doubts that the submarine reported probably sunk off the entrance to the Dardanelles on 18 Apr., actually went down. The 12th Transport Group to Crete is operating according to schedule.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence there were 7 submarines operating in the central and western part of the Black Sea.

Own Situation:

During the night of 17 Apr. enemy planes attacked Feodosiya.

Due to the fact that operations of German and Italian naval forces in the Black Sea are about to increase, it is essential to find out whether the necessary measures have been taken or initiated to guarantee good coordination of naval and air forces. In this connection Naval Staff calls the attention of Group South to the experience gained in this respect in the other theaters of war in the past: Constant close contact between advanced headquarters of the Air Force and the Navy, frequent personal contact between these commands as well as exchange of liaison officers, improvement of communications and organization of communications, common radio command circuits. In this connection naval radio sections are to be attached to Air Force commands, Air Force and Naval commands are to keep each other informed at all times on their operations and plans, personnel is to be familiarized with the equipment of both branches of the Armed Forces, and arrangements are to be made for the direct exchange of intelligence information.

Naval Staff requests that all measures taken in the area of Group South be reported by 15 May as well as any suggestions and proposals that might be made on the basis of the above-mentioned experiences. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I op 9045/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIVa.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

No special reports on the situation.

Foreign Minister Togo replying to the German Ambassador's inquiry stated that while Japanese operations against Ceylon and in Indian waters are undertaken with an eye to disturbing the Cripps negotiations and influencing India's attitude, they have a more general purpose at the same time and would eventually extend to the western part of the Indian Ocean in accordance with Germany's desire for Japanese action in the Indian Ocean in the direction of the Near East.

Confidential information from Armed Forces circles confirms the impression that the Japanese High Command has decided to shift the main weight of operations to the Indian Ocean. An authoritative member of the Naval Staff told the German Ambassador that according to his own personal opinion Japan is aiming next at Ceylon and the Indian Ocean. (This tallies with the report of the Military Attache in Tokyo. See War Diary 17 Apr.)

As for the present over-all situation the Foreign Minister declared that in the meantime Ambassador Oshima has confirmed the statements made by the German Ambassador in Tokyo to the effect that Germany is determined to defeat Soviet Russia and that no basis could be seen even for a temporary understanding between Germany and Soviet Russia. The Japanese Foreign Minister and the Japanese Armed Forces are particularly interested in the Near East.

The German Foreign Minister instructed the German Ambassador to point out to the Japanese Foreign Minister - if he has not already done so - that a Japanese Army attack on Vladivostok and in the direction of Lake Baikal would be of particular importance. For copy of the telegrams of 14 and 16 Apr. see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

There are lively enemy movements opposite the southern wing of the Von Kleist Army Group. The Army Group as a whole reported only slight and sporadic activity.

Central Army Group:

Another sabotage mission was carried out against the recently restored railroad bridge near Batagovo northeast of Bryansk. Near Spas Demensk in the area of the 4th Army enemy tanks succeeded in penetrating into our positions. Strong enemy attacks on a wide front north of Fomina were repulsed, resulting in heavy losses on both sides. An enemy attempt to cross the Ugra northwest of Yukhnov was frustrated.

In the 4th Panzer Army Sector the pocket southeast of Vyazma has been mopped up on the whole. Within a period of not quite 3 months the enemy lost in this area 57,100 killed, more than 11,000 prisoners, and much equipment.

In the northern sector of this Army Group strong enemy forces renewed their attacks and succeeded in penetrating German positions near Zhukova. Enemy pressure continues at this point. Near Mostovaya a German thrust was successful.

Northern Army Group:

The westward advance of Group Eicke has run into strong enemy opposition. Thus far the group has been unable to take the strongly fortified town of Omichkino. On the other side of the river the Von Seydlitz group has begun to attack Ramushevo from the west, the latter being located 5 kilometers downstream from Omichkino. Furious enemy attacks are attempting to prevent the junction of the 2 advancing spearheads. Near Yamno strong armored forces of the enemy succeeded in breaking through the eastern prong of the pincers; continuing its westward advance, 1 tank went on to cut even through the western prong.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Enemy attacks against the Aunus group, some of them supported by tanks, were either repulsed or brought to a halt in front of the main battle line. Several not very powerful attacks north of Povyenets were repulsed. In the Loukhi-Kandalaksha sector there was rather lively enemy reconnaissance and artillery activity. Additional enemy forces are being brought up against the southern flank of the Litsa front.

3. North Africa:

West of El Gazala our guns brought to a halt a tank-supported enemy reconnaissance thrust. Owing to the continuing sandstorms, the front otherwise was quiet along its entire length with the exception of minor artillery and patrol activity.

20 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

The Swiss press calls the new French government of Laval, Petain, and Darlan a triumvirate. It comments that Petain's position is still strong, and that Darlan's position is also strong because of the fact that the possible commitment of the French Armed Forces on the side of Germany will depend on him. Laval will try to prepare France for full collaboration with Germany. Still his position is going to depend on what Germany is willing to offer in return. Even he is certainly not interested in breaking abruptly with Great Britain and the U.S.

German diplomatic circles purposely stress that Laval is facing a difficult task and that he will have to start all over again. In this connection attention is called to France's internal problems, in the solution of which Germany is not going to interfere. The fact that problems of French foreign policy, not to mention Franco-German relations, are not mentioned in German diplomatic circles or in German publications, speaks for itself.

Great Britain:

The newly appointed Minister for the Middle East, the Australian Casey, is trying to propagandize the advantages of Anglo-American cooperation as well as the necessity of a common war effort of the whole Empire.

Reports from India claim that Cripps may become Viceroy of India. At any rate it is quite possible that negotiations may be resumed.

There is much unrest among the Indian population. Due to the fact that a Japanese invasion is feared by everyone an uninterrupted stream of refugees is pouring from the east coast to the west without any direction or aid from the authorities.

Italy:

The official German news agency (DNB) reports that political circles in Rome received the news of the French Cabinet reorganization with much reserve, pointing out that this is a matter of French internal policy.

> Therefore Laval can expect even less from Italy than from Germany which at least gives him personal support and publicity.

Turkey:

The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs is under the impression that Turkey is becoming more and more pro-German, and that she may be expected to join the Germans following further Russian defeats. The Army's reorganization and the fact that it has strengthened its positions along the borders of Syria and Iraq at the expense of the positions adjoining Thrace and the Aegean Sea point in this direction. Moreover an official exchange of ideas is at present in progress between Turkey and the Axis powers in connection with certain Turkish ambitions aimed at the acquisition of Russian territory. In the presence of the Prime Minister a statement was made at a press conference that while maintenance of neutrality would continue to be the

aim of Turkish policy, this attitude is not inflexible but subject to change.

Liberia:

A diplomatic report states that Liberia is remaining neutral for the time being. However, in view of the growing influence of the U.S. she is expected to enter the war as soon as the American bases in that country are completed and adequately manned. Even at this time measures against German nationals may be expected.

U.S.A.:

Reuter reports that on 19 Apr. the governments concerned have reached a final agreement on over-all command in the Southwest Pacific. Consequently General MacArthur is appointed Commander in Chief of all forces in that area. The Australian General Blamey will command the ground forces, the American General Brett the air forces, and the American Admiral Leary the naval forces.

Referring to his London conferences, General Marshall declared that the American air forces would be stationed throughout Great Britain, and that American troops would also participate in the so-called "Commando" operations. 1 corps of specially trained troops has been organized already for this purpose. General Marshall said that the main problem now is no longer production but the fighting itself. Transportation is the main difficulty now; however this problem will be solved too.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff discusses the memorandum received from the Air Force Operations Staff in reply to the Naval Staff request for Air Force patrol of coastal waters. (See War Diary 10 Apr.) The answer to the Naval Staff's well-founded argument is extremely brief; paragraph 2 misses the point and is completely irrevelant; it reads as follows:

"1. It is well known that the limited number of planes makes adequate patrol of coastal waters close to the shore and further out very difficult. The withdrawal of air forces occurred on Fuehrer's orders since they were needed in Norway. Likewise the Fuehrer has sanctioned the disposition of the air forces for the spring and summer as requested. These plans do not envisage any reinforcement of the reconnaissance units of the 3rd Air Force.

2. It is proposed that additional naval forces be used for reconnaissance operations."

For copy see 1/Skl 8999/42 Gkdos. in the files of War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

II. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff then discussed proposals submitted by the Armed Forces High Command, War Economy and Armament Division to the Armed Forces Operations Staff dealing with the possibilities of weakening the enemy's military strength as follows:

1. Disruption of Russia's coal and petroleum supply.

2. Paralyzing effectively the most important armament industry

in the Ural area and the northern part of the Volga Valley.

3. Operations against convoys going to Murmansk and the White Sea harbors.

4. Operations against Anglo-American supply traffic going through and coming from the Mexican Gulf and the Caribbean Sea.

5. Close watch of U.S. ports for food exports to Great Britain.

6. Operations against shipments of raw materials from Spanish Morocco and the West African Coast to the U.S. and Great Britain.

7. Elimination (by Japan) of the island of Ceylon as the last important remaining enemy source of rubber, and of Caledonia, which supplies the enemy with nickel.

> The fact that 5 out of these 7 strategic tasks can be carried out only through naval operations, confirms the viewpoint of the Naval Staff that in the last analysis also this World War is a naval war.

For copy of these proposals (1/Skl I a 9334/42 Gkdos.) which are also being submitted to the Naval Adjutant to the Fuehrer and the liaison officers attached to the Armed Forces High Command, the Army High Command, and the Commander in Chief, Air, see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XII.

The Commander in Chief, Navy is on his way to Fuehrer headquarters to congratulate the Fuehrer on his birthday.

Special Items:

I. On 24 Mar. the Naval Staff informed the German Naval Command, Italy on certain ideas regarding a possible attack on Suez and Egypt. (See 1/Skl I b 632/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in files "Aida". See War Diary 27 Mar.) In this same connection Naval Staff forwarded to the Commanding Admiral, German Naval Command, Italy an extract of a study made by the German Africa Corps and received through the Naval Liaison Officer attached to the Army High Command. This study was made as early as the summer of 1941, at a time when it was still anticipated that the Russian campaign would be brought to a certain conclusion; at a time when our Army was sure of holding Cyrenaica and was about to take Tobruk. Nevertheless the study is of value even today, because it serves as background to the views of the German Africa Corps concerning this operation; the bottlenecks involved, as well as the requests to be made of the Navy. Annexed to the study are statements of opinion by the Operations Division, Naval Staff concerning the study itself as well as concerning opinions expressed by the Chief, Army General Staff and the Chief, Africa Transport Section attached to the German General with the Italian Armed Forces; the opinions of the latter were based on information supplied by the Naval Liaison Officer with the Army High Command. The Commanding Admiral, German Naval Command, Italy was also informed of a remark on the Mediterranean situation made by the Commander in Chief, Navy in his report to the Fuehrer on 13 Apr. (see 1/Skl I b 785/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VII).

For copy of the information sent to the German Naval Command, Italy see 1/Skl I b 788/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in file "Aida".

II. The Commander, Destroyers reports that on 20 Apr. the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Torpedo Boat Flotillas were transferred to the organization of the Commander, Destroyers. On 21 Apr. the Commander, Destroyers and his staff will embark on Tender F 1 in Wilhelmshaven. (See Telegram 1730.)

Situation 20 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Information sent to the Naval Attache, Tokyo:

a. Data concerning the new operational area for German auxiliary cruisers in the Indian Ocean agreed upon with Admiral Nomura.

b. The outwardbound Japanese submarine may move freely outside of this area.

c. The restrictions governing attacks on ships travel ling singly in the South Atlantic will remain in force as reported earlier. The Attache is instructed to inform the Japanese naval authorities that owing to an unforeseen delay the German auxiliary cruiser is at present south of 30° S and will not be able to reach the area agreed upon until 25 Apr. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I k 9294/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV. 1/Skl I k 9289 42 Gkdos. informed the Japanese Liaison Officer of the delay of ship "10". For copy see War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Changing previous instructions of 16 Apr., Radiogram 1942 was broadcast to the REGENSBURG directing her to take up her waiting position within a radius of 300 miles from point "Sellerie", after completion of her supply mission.

Radiogram 1616 was sent to the WARTENFELS ordering her to turn over 600 tons of coal for other purposes and to expedite taking on her cargo. At the same time she was asked to reply whether she could be ready to sail east by 1 May if necessary, regardless of completion of loading and unloading operations.

A directive is issued to all with reference to radio procedure when returning to ports on the Atlantic coast from the moment contact is established with German air patrols, at the latest after crossing 10° W. This directive is broadcast by messages 1405 and 2202.

Radiogram 1819 was sent to all ships in foreign waters informing them that it is planned to send a supply ship to them from Germany. They were also instructed to state by way of short-code signals their needs for equipment and supplies, as well as for the replacement of personnel, food, and ammunition.

All ships in foreign waters were informed by Radiogram 1721 that in the morning of 20 Mar. (20 Apr.?, Tr.N.) the RIO GRANDE sighted a

steamer with course east-southeast at 13° 41' S, 19° 59' W, and, for a short time, a plane at noontime.

Radiogram 2157 was sent to all ships in foreign waters informing them that the DRESDEN sailed from Western France on 16 Apr. and instructing them as to the route she is likely to follow until 5 May and as to her camouflage.

Radiograms 2241, 1346, 2203, and 2214 were broadcast to all with information on the positions of the Italian groups "Alfa" and "Beta" as of 19 Apr. and on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to radio intelligence a damaged motor gunboat returned to Lowestoft early in the morning on 20 Apr. The boat had had an engagement with the German PT boats which had been reported off Southampton in the night of 19 Apr. The escort vessel GODSWOLD (925 GRT) was reported in distress east of Shipwash. (Another PT boat mining success.) Between 2230 and 2235 the location of a convoy 4 miles east of North Foreland was reported to other vessels. One ship was located 198 miles west of Brest. The Attache in Lisbon reports that the Portuguese steamer TRANSPORTADOR, which was abandoned by her crew was not sunk but taken to Gibraltar by the British. Thus the Portuguese denial has been explained.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The Naval Staff will take over the command of the DRESDEN as of 1800 on 20 Apr. The ship has been ordered to proceed according to paragraph F2 of her sailing orders and not to cross the longitude of point "Nagel" in westerly direction, but to proceed by way of points "Hammer" and "Zange" to point "Saege".

Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines have been instructed accordingly.

Channel Coast:

During the night of 19 Apr. the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla carried out her mining operation. The flotilla was detected by an enemy destroyer before starting to lay the mines. 1 group was taken under fire and chased as far as the immediate vicinity of the British declared area. 1 boat was damaged slightly. For brief report see Telegram 1150. The 4th PT Boat Flotilla succeeded in carrying out its task unnoticed by the enemy. For brief report see Telegram 0815.

On route "Rosa" a total of 5 mines were swept. Mine sweeper M 4006 hit a mine north of Morlaix and sank.

The Fuehrer is very anxious to have the 30.5 centimeter battery on Guernsey ready to operate as soon as possible at its maximum rate of fire and has ordered Reich Minister Speer to effect a speed-up. The Armed Forces Operations Staff transmits this instruction from the Fuehrer with the request that the Naval High Command too hurry the setting up of the battery in order to advance the date of completion.

The Fuehrer requests that the Armed Forces High Command inform him as to the probable date of completion and report the battery ready, as soon as it is ready to operate at normal rate of firing. See Telegram 1400.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

According to a belated report 6 boats of the 34th Mine Sweeper Flotilla opened fire on an enemy PT boat near the approach buoy off Ijmuiden during the night of 16 Apr. Since our boats were just lowering their mine-sweeping gear, their vision was limited, and the enemy boat succeeded in escaping without having to put up a fight. The Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North believes that this was an enemy attempt to land agents. (See Telegram 0925.)

10 landing barges were transferred from Hook of Holland to the Elbe. 3 ground mines were swept off Ameland and Terschelling. During the night of 19 Apr. the tanker EUROSEE was attacked from the air, but apparently remained undamaged. 1 attacking plane was shot down. Another enemy plane was shot down over the Hubertgat.

2. Norway, Arctic Ocean:

Enemy Situation:

At 2200 on 14 Apr. radio intelligence showed convoy PQ 15 to be at 62° 45' N, and approximately 16° 40' W, en route to Hval Fjord (Iceland). At noon on 20 Apr. air reconnaissance located 10 steamers in Iokanga Bay.

At 1452 the Army coastal observation post at Skomvaer (Lofoten Islands) reported 10 warships, 5 of which were on an easterly and 5 on a northeasterly course, then turning southwest, also 1 merchant vessel a few miles to the west. They were last sighted at 1603. No naval forces were sighted by air reconnaissance over coastal waters of the Lofoten Island area between 1700 and 2100.

Own Situation:

Because of the enemy situation Group North ordered into immediate readiness the naval forces under the Commanding Admiral, Battleships and 3 submarines which were ready for action in Trondheim and Bergen. 2 submarines on their way south from the Arctic Ocean were directed to intercept the reported enemy force. A 3-hour alert was ordered as a result of the air reconnaissance report, since it was suspected that the Army observation post had been in error.

An enemy submarine sank the steamer HOEDUR inside the Folda Fjord. An enemy submarine unsuccessfully attacked mine sweeper M "251" off Vardoe. Off Feiestein an enemy plane machine-gunned the escort of steamer GREIF. 1 mine sweeper was slightly damaged.

North of Griptarene off Trondheim an anti-submarine mine field type B was laid according to schedule, with depth set at 18 meters. Enemy planes were active over Petsamo on 18 Apr., over Lister on 19 and 20 Apr., and over Stavanger on 20 Apr. Escort and transport service is proceeding according to schedule.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Route "100" has been reopened for supply shipments as far as Riga despite the danger from a few stray mines, provided that the ships proceed in the company of icebreakers. The steamers POTSDAM and GNEISENAU arrived in Kiel on 19 Apr. Upon completion of the transport operation "Elch" the 3rd Mountain Troop Division is to be shipped to Oslo, one half by way of Aalborg, the other half by way of Stettin. The POTSDAM-GNEISENAU convoy will carry the troops from Stettin, and individually routed steamers will carry vehicles and horses. The transports from Aalborg will be handled by the regular shuttle traffic.

Another transport task will be the shipment to Finland of 44,000 men from the Stettin area and about 25,000 to 30,000 men from the Riga-Reval area. A total of 18 to 20 steamers will be required for this operation. In addition, approximately 7,000 men on leave will have to be shipped back from the Finnish area each week. As far as can be seen the POTSDAM and the GNEISENAU are the only ships which can be considered for this purpose, provided that their monthly requirement of 2,400 tons of fuel can be procured.

In order to guarantee that sea transport to and from the Baltic countries operates smoothly and that the authorities concerned cooperate well with one another, the Supply and Transportation Office, Armed Forces Overseas, is organizing a "Sea Transport Branch" under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Baltic Countries, as of 1 May 1942. The offices at Libau and Reval will be attached to this branch. The Air Force will organize and direct the office in Libau and the Army the one in Reval.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

A British vessel was located 180 miles southwest of the Faroe Islands, and another one 100 miles west of Brest. According to an intelligence report from Spain part of a convoy arrived in Gibraltar in the morning.

Numerous reports on submarines were received from the coast of the U. S., for instance, from off Sable Island, Long Island, the Gulf of Maine, Cape Charles, and the Florida Coast. The steamer MANCHESTER DIVISION (6,048 GRT) was in distress in quadrant BD 2530.

2. Own Situation:

The Naval Staff ordered the Commanding Admiral, Submarines to assign as replacements to Group North 2 submarines leaving from German ports and to provide a third boat for the same purpose early in May.

On the basis of the report of enemy naval forces off Skomvaer, submarines U "403" and U "592" under the command of Group North were ordered to proceed at top speed to quadrant AF 3510.

Submarine U "116" has not left Bergen as yet because of repairs. At first she is to make for quadrant CB 90.

From off the U.S. coast submarine U "109" reports sinking an ammunition ship of 7,500 GRT, submarine U "564" reports sinking the Swedish

steamer AGRA (4,569 GRT), and submarine U "575" reports sinking the steamer BARON INCHCAPE. The Swedish steamer outbound from Philadelphia was sunk because the national marking could not be made out. Off Cape Hatteras submarine U "86" sighted a submarine trap operating with a lowered motorboat.

For a report on the supplying of submarines by submarine U "459" see Supplementary Submarine Situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

There is nothing to report about the submarines operating in the West Indies, in the South Atlantic, and in the Mediterranean.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. Great Britain and Vicinity:

6 dive bombers made a successful daylight attack on the Swanage railroad station. During the night of 20 Apr. an enemy plane was observed penetrating as far as the Tegernsee, flying by way of Verdun and the Algaeu Alps. No report was received as to its return flight, leading to the assumption that the plane crashed.

The Air Force Operations Staff is under the impression that the so-called non-stop offensive has been resumed on 15 Apr. with mass operations of fighters and bombers over the Channel area. Its purpose is to divert German fighter and defensive forces, so that daylight attacks on German territory similar to those on Augsburg may be attempted again.

The 5th Air Force has been ordered to reconnoiter the naval bases of Scapa as well as Kirkwall, Moray Firth, Firth of Forth, and Loch Ewe.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Valletta was attacked by a large number of planes, and smaller forces attacked the airfields on Malta.

At 1005 air reconnaissance sighted a westbound enemy force off Algiers. It included one aircraft carrier, one battleship, one heavy cruiser, and 10 destroyers and was engaged in the transfer of planes to Malta. The very fact that there are now 3 aircraft carriers in Gibraltar shows how anxious the enemy is to get airplane replacements to Malta. German fighter planes based on Pantellaria took off at 0900 to prevent the airplane replacements from reaching Malta, and beginning 1100 a German fighter screen was kept in the air over Malta. In spite of that the landing of enemy planes could not be prevented. 47 newly-arrived single-motored planes were observed on Venezia airfield.

3. Eastern Front:

There are no reports from the army fronts.

On 19 Apr. planes attacked and damaged two steamers in the Black Sea. In the course of an attack against Novorossisk on 20 Apr. another steamer was damaged.

Dive bombers attacked and damaged two of the steamers sighted in the Iokanga Bay. Due to the weather and take-off difficulties the attacks ordered on convoy PQ 14, which has arrived in Murmansk, could not be carried out thus far.

Special Items:

At the conference with the Inspectorate of Naval Air (L.In.8) on 17 Apr., the Naval Staff requested that an initial delivery of 50 planes of the Flettner helicopter type (Fl-282) be made available to equip all combat vessels inclusive of training cruisers, auxiliary cruisers, icebreakers, blockade runners, fleet tankers, and supply ships, as well as the 2 ship-plane squadrons. For copy of the result of this conference see 1/Skl I L 9281/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

In the morning a convoy of 8 steamers and 4 corvettes arrived in Gibraltar. According to an intelligence report from Spain one aircraft carrier, one cruiser, and several destroyers and submarines are expected to arrive in Gibraltar from the U.S.

The enemy force sighted by air reconnaissance north of Algiers (see Air Situation) is believed to have passed through the Strait of Gibraltar during the night of 18 Apr. No reports have so far been received as to the identity of the force involved.

There are no other reports.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 19 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi. Damage was slight.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The steamer GREGORI, en route from Sfax to Naples, was sunk by an enemy submarine off Kerkenna Island on 19 Apr. Naval barge "154" en route from Benghazi to Derna had a brief engagement with a surfaced British submarine. The German boat suffered slight damage. All other supply shipments proceeded without incident.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

The motor ship ARAYBANK (7,260 GRT), which was salvaged in Suda, is being towed from Suda to Corinth. 1.5 miles north of the far end of the pier at Herakleion an anchored mine of unknown origin was destroyed. Transport shipments are moving according to schedule.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Little change in the situation.

Own Situation:

8 river mine sweepers of the Danube Flotilla and the tugboat FORSCH have completed a routine sweep from Bugaz to Ochakov North according to schedule. The convoying of supplies from Rumania has got

under way as planned. 4 steamers have left Constanta for Ochakov North and 3 steamers have left for Sulina.

During a mine-laying operation in the waters off Genichesk a river mine type B exploded as it hit the water, causing 2 other mines to explode on the decks of the mine layers. Both mine layers were demolished, 3 officers and 19 men were killed, the majority of them most likely Croatians.

The technical failures of our mines are very regrettable. Drastic action is to be taken in this matter.

VIII. Situation East Asia

A casualty list of the Japanese Navy as of 8 Apr. lists the following vessels as sunk: 4 destroyers, 4 submarines, 5 special submarines, 5 mine sweepers, and 30 merchant ships; 3 destroyers, 1 mine sweeper, and 28 merchant ships as damaged, and 138 planes as lost.

This cannot be a complete list, as it fails to include among others a cruiser which the Japanese Navy had admitted lost at an earlier date.

The military attache reports that Japanese troops in Burma are advancing slowly. British reports state that 4,000 Burmese troops are fighting on the Japanese side on the Irrawaddy front, and that the Burmese Fifth Column is working most effectively behind the British lines.

The excess civilian population in Madras and Bombay is being evacuated. 3,500 American Filipinos escaped from the Bataan front. The landing on Cebu was undertaken by 5 warships and 10 transport ships. The Allied and Japanese air forces exchanged blows against Huon Bay and Port Moresby respectively.

The Japanese liaison officer reports that maneuvers of the Japanese fleet include torpedo firing under actual combat conditions in accordance with Japanese tactics; this means that destroyer groups (3 to 4 ships) fire spreads of 6 to 9 torpedoes per destroyer.

A loss of anywhere from 40 to 80 torpedoes during such maneuvers is considered normal because the search for the torpedoes does not begin until the tactical situation has been declared over.

An enviable abundance of materiel!

The Naval Ordnance Division, Torpedo Branch and the Fleet Command have been informed.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

There was little fighting along the front of this army group.

Central Army Group:

In the Kirov area a strong enemy combat force of about 3 rifle divisions and 2 armored brigades is being assembled. Near Fomina and at the northern front of the 4th Army sector there was local fighting activity. Northwest of Rzhev encircled enemy units were annihilated. The railroad bridge between Velikie Luki and Nevel was blown up by the enemy.

Northern Army Group:

Combat force Eicke and the Von Seydlitz group began to attack simultaneously and succeeded in bringing their spearheads closer to one another. The fighting is still continuing. No details have been learned as yet with regard to the enemy penetration north of Lake Ilmen. There are no reports on the penetration of the Sponheimer group south of the Soltsy-Maluksa railroad.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

At the southeastern front 30 tanks were annihilated in the course of an unsuccessful enemy tank attack. Other enemy attacks against the east flank of the Svir position were repulsed. Between 11 and 17 Apr. 11,500 Russians are known to have been killed at the Svir front.

According to statements made by deserters the enemy plans to reinforce the Loukhi sector with 4 new divisions and to attack before the end of the month. 2 Russian brigades have been withdrawn and de-activated, because they included mostly naval personnel to be returned to naval organizations. On the southern wing of the Litsa front the enemy is bringing up additional reserves.

3. North Africa:

Following 4 days of sandstorms a thorough air reconnaissance of the area held by the enemy gave no indication of any important changes. It was a quiet day. There was normal patrol and artillery activity.

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21 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

Speaking on fundamental issues Laval declared that he has always believed a Franco-German rapprochement essential for peace in Europe. He said that at Montoire he faced a victor who was willing not to abuse his victory and who offered France a new place in a new Europe. He stressed that France's past is glorious enough now to permit her to work towards an understanding with the conqueror. Moreover Germany's fight against bolshevism clearly shows the real issue of this war. Laval also emphasized that he had at all times favored a common Mediterranean policy for France and Italy. He considers France's external situation very serious and feels that the concern for the fate of the French Empire is more than justified. Laval said that Great Britain grabbed French colonies at a time when she was unable to defend her own. Now, having driven France into the war and having left her in the lurch, Great Britain is attempting to destroy the French fleet, kill French seamen, starve the population, and have her planes devastate French areas which had so far been spared. There may be a certain opposition to taking a negative attitude towards Great Britain. However, Frenchmen ought to realize what Great Britain's attitude toward them really is. For more detailed abstract see Political Review Nr. 92 Paragraph 1.

Great Britain:

At a conference of the International Labor Office, Minister of Labor, Bevin, called this war a people's war and not a war on the wealthy. Therefore the peace will have to be a people's peace. He said that the problem of demobilization will be so great that the various nations will have to come to an agreement and abandon all selfish interests for a decade after the war.

India:

Stating his views on the Cripps mission, Gandhi pointed out that the confused situation is to a large extent the fault of the Indians themselves. He believes that the country will be able to achieve independence only after the serious internal conflicts have been overcome. He advocates non-violence as the best way to achieve this goal. The Hindus and Moslems would have to follow his example, else all efforts to achieve independence would be hopeless. Nehru called on the population to oppose any aggressor who might want to invade Indian soil. Those who do not want to cooperate with the British only invite a Japanese invasion of India. However, Nehru said that he is against organizing Indian guerrillas to fight Japan.

Egypt:

Due to British pressure former Prime Minister Ali Maher was arrested when it was discovered that he owned a secret transmitter and that he had organized centers of anti-British propaganda with Italian money.

Italy:

The foreign press comments on the difficulties which have arisen between Italy and Bulgaria in connection with the Macedonian question.

Greece:

According to a report from diplomatic circles a large part of the Greek civil service in Athens, especially employees of the postal and the telegraphic services, began a movement of passive resistance on 17 Apr. The government has threatened that it will take drastic measures.

Japan:

Japanese authorities have ordered all French ships in Indo-China confiscated. The request of the French government that Japan recognize French sovereignty in New Caledonia was presented by the French Ambassador in Tokyo. However, the Japanese Foreign Minister merely took cognizance thereof. So far negotiations in this matter have not been resumed.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Staff orders to re-examine the possible transfer of a number of seaplanes to the vicinity of the West Fjord entrance; if enemy forces should approach this exposed coast, these planes should be able to do reconnaissance even though weather conditions or other circumstances might interfere with the timely arrival of planes from the more distant bases.

II. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports that the Armed Forces High Command has approved the executive orders issued by the Naval High Command in connection with Fuehrer Directive No. 40; without making any changes the Armed Forces High Command has forwarded them to the other branches of the service for the guidance of all headquarters concerned.

Another report of the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff deals with the coming conference in The Hague concerning the limits of the coastal defense areas in the Netherlands.

III. The Chief, Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports that the problem of equipping the GRAF ZEPPELIN with planes was the subject of a number of discussions between the Naval Staff, Naval Air, and Air Force Liaison Section, and the Air Force Operations Staff. He said that these discussions have led to a more favorable sclution than previous ones. Details will be reported after matters have been studied.

IV. On 20 Apr. the Commander in Chief, Navy and Minister Speer had a talk at Fuehrer headquarters in which the latter suggested that the Navy follow the example of other branches of the Armed Forces and other agencies and procure the scarce raw materials wherever possible regardless of the methods employed, of existing regulations and threats of punishment. On the strength of this conversation the Commander in Chief, Navy orders that any copper available in France or elsewhere is to be seized without hesitation for the exclusive use of the Navy. The conversation took place in the Fuehrer's presence. Likewise the steamer which sank off St. Nazaire with a valuable cargo of copper and tin aboard is to be salvaged as soon as possible for the sole benefit of the Navy.

V. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports that after Minister Speer's report the Fuehrer ordered the commander responsible for the shipments to the Channel Islands to report to him in person.

However, the Commander in Chief, Navy orders that the officer in question is not to report alone; instead the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff is to make the report in the presence of the transport officer, if that cannot be avoided. The man is a lieutenant of the Naval Reserve, newly appointed to this position and not yet familiar enough with these matters.

The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reported next on discussions between his office and the Ministry of Transportation, Maritime Shipping Department concerning grievances voiced by the Maritime Shipping Branch. With the exception of certain transports to be handled by the Navy exclusively, the Navy will agree to let the Maritime Shipping Branch handle all transports as proposed. Although no definite promises can be made in this connection the Navy will permit the completion of part of the new merchant vessels under construction, assign 1 shipyard to build new merchant ships, and aid in repairs to the best of its ability.

The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff then reported on a construction program newly drawn up by the Naval Construction Division, according to which 6 destroyers and 14 torpedo boats are to be completed, 175 submarines will be built during the last 9 months of 1942, 216 submarines will be built in 1943, and starting 1 Jan. 1944, 160 submarines will be built annually. Work will be suspended on the following ships: The SEYDLITZ, 6 reconnaissance cruisers, 4 escort vessels, and any destroyer and torpedo boats in excess of the figures given above. For copy of the construction program see 1/Skl 9098/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

VI. The Chief, Naval Staff orders that the 4 PT boats on their way to the Mediterranean be altered so as to camouflage them for their voyage into the Black Sea. How this matter is to be handled with reference to Turkey will be discussed with the Naval Attache in Istanbul, who is expected to arrive in Berlin on 25 Apr.

VII. Finally in view of operation "Herkules" the Chief, Naval Staff suggests that Italy's attention be called to the fact that if the Sicilian mine fields were laid, they would constitute an effective flanking protection against attacks from the west.

Situation 21 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an Italian report, the RENOWN, a cruiser of the DIDO class, and 7 destroyers arrived in Gibraltar from the Atlantic in the afternoon. The MALAYA group is also expected to arrive.

South Atlantic:

According to a report from the consulate in Santa Isabel there are 14,000 European and native troops in the Libreville area. 4 submarines are said to be stationed in Gabon. The report also states that the borders between Spanish Guinea and both Cameroons and Gabon are under strict supervision.

According to an intercepted British Admiralty report of 17 Mar., 1 Dutch

and 1 unidentified ship were sunk off Capetown on 16 Mar. It may be assumed that these sinkings have some connection with the mining operation of the DOGGERBANK. Evidently the British have reinforced their patrols due to the fact that German surface forces are operating in this area. Radio intelligence intercepted 2 reports according to which the BULOLO was in the area 40° - 42° S and 18° - 21° E on 7 Apr., and 2 patrol vessels were located on 10 Apr. about 420 miles south-southwest of Capetown. So far the BULOLO was operating northeast of La Plata.

2. Own Situation:

Radiogram 1758 contained sailing directions for the DRESDEN and informed her that the Naval Staff has taken over command.

The sailing orders of the RIO GRANDE show that Etappe Tokyo has ordered maximum speed in passing the Natal Strait only if enemy ships are reported there. For this reason Radiogram 1622 was sent to the MUENSTERLAND and the PORTLAND instructing them to proceed at maximum speed between 10° S and 10° N.

All ships in foreign waters were informed by Radiogram 1628 on the positions of the PORTLAND and the MUENSTERLAND, computed by dead reckoning. Radiogram 2300 was broadcast to them with information on the political situation in France created by the reorganization of the government, and Radiogram 1041 with information on the enemy situation.

The Chief, Naval Staff, Communications Division sent teletype message 0400 to the Commanding Admiral, Submarines and Naval Group West to inform them of the positions of the Italian East Africa ships ARCOLA and TAIGETE. These ships were in quadrant CG 8794 and 8782 respectively in the afternoon of 21 Apr.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance there were 4 southbound convoys with together 24 steamers and 21 independently routed ships on various courses in the Irish Sea and the North Channel up as far as the southern tip of the Hebrides in the evening of 20 Apr. On 21 Apr. a three-masted sailing vessel with a red cross on white ground was sighted 70 miles east of Iceland.

According to radio intelligence the escort vessel GODOWOLD was probably sunk. At 2300 British patrol boats reported six PT boats off Ostend.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

In the evening of 20 Apr. the damaged Italian blockade-runner FUSIJAMA arrived in Corcubion Bay near Finisterre. Direction of the ship's movements rests with the Italian Navy, which has been asked to order the ship to proceed to France, keeping within Spanish territorial waters on the way. The Naval Attache in Madrid has been given the task of securing Spanish support and clarifying the situation. (See Telegram 2100.)

As to the defense of the islands off the coast of western France the

Commanding Admiral, France, in consultation with the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has now announced the final organization of the naval units involved. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl 9412/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

Channel Coast:

West-southwest of point 28 A on route "Rosa" 2 mines were cut, 1 of which was salvaged; it was set for 1630, 20 Apr., running time 26 days and 10 hours. A third mine got entangled in the mine-sweeping gear; it was salvaged likewise. 8 men were saved out of a total of 38 after mine sweeper M "4003" hit a mine and sank in quadrant BF 2941.

During the night of 21 Apr. the 4th and the 2nd PT Boat Flotillas carried out mine operations off Great Yarmouth and Cromer.

Special Item:

The problem had been raised as to whether the use of radio and radio direction-finding should be included in the regulations for cooperation between merchant ships and escort submarines (see War Diary 17 Mar.). Group West objects to the use of such methods for the purpose of bringing the ships in question together.

Copy of 1/Skl 9287/42 Gkdos. and previous correspondence in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance 25 steamers and 3 destroyers were sighted in the morning off Flamborough Head on a northerly course; 8 destroyers, 10 motor mine sweepers, and 4 escort vessels, all southbound, were sighted northeast of Harwich in the afternoon. In the afternoon floating wreckage was sighted 40 miles east of Harwich.

According to radio intelligence 1 battleship and 3 destroyers left the Firth of Forth. A convoy escorted by 4 destroyers arrived there at the same time.

Own Situation:

So far 3,291 cu.m. of oil have been salvaged from tanker EUROSEE. A strong tug boat has been requested to attempt to tow off the ship.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

There was lively air activity over the southwest coast of Norway. According to radio intelligence an operational radio message was broadcast in Great Britain according to which a British vessel sighted 3 cruisers and 2 ships at a distance of 9 miles. Position was not established.

Commenting on the report turned in by the Skomvaer coastal observation post on 20 Apr., Naval Command, Narvik replies that the negative results of air reconnaissance are no proof that there were no enemy ships, since the report of the observation post was accurate. The depth of the water is such that a mine-laying operation is not excluded. Moreover it is altogether possible that a fata morgana may have been responsible for a mistake in identification.

On 21 Apr. submarine noises were picked up by hydrophone off Petsamo Fjcrd.

Own Situation:

When the steamer HOEDUR went down 8,500 tons of coal bound for Tromsoe went down with the ship. Only 3 members of the crew were saved. Because of weather conditions the 6th PT Boat Flotilla put into Molde. In the afternoon submarine U "A" was unsuccessfully attacked and machine-gunned off Obrestad by an enemy plane with blurred German markings. Enemy planes were also active over Vardoe, Petsamo, and Kirkenes on 19 Apr., over Kirkenes, Trondheim, Lister, and Stavanger on 20 Apr. Off Stadland the steamer FULTON was machine-gunned, suffering casualties among the crew.

Transport and escort service is continuing according to schedule.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

Off Tranekjaer the Swedish steamer ARETE sank, cause unknown. The German steamer OSTFRIESLAND ran aground off Farberg. In the area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea the sweeping of channels and escort operations are proceeding according to schedule.

The German Admiral in Rome was instructed to find out from the Italian Navy whether a number of Italian subchasers could be made available for use on Lake Ladoga. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I op 803/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

V. Merchant Shipping

For data on food shipments from Lisbon to Gibraltar, on shipping traffic between Mersin and Iskenderon, and between Port Said and Alexandria, on tanker traffic between Haifa and Iskenderon, and on the traffic of sailing vessels between Mersin, Iskenderon, Haifa, and Port Said, etc., see summary No. 12/42 issued by the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch.

On 1 Apr. 1942, according to figures verified by the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Navies Branch losses of merchant shipping tonnage belonging to or used by the enemy amounted to 15,690,465 GRT.

This figure is broken down as follows:

14,192,450 GRT engaged in trade with Great Britain
628,275 GRT Russian shipping
869,740 GRT shipping in the Pacific

The above total includes 2,824,531 GRT of tanker space.

These figures may be considered minimum enemy losses.

Share of the German Navy in the total achievement:

a.	due to submarines:	7,144,816 GRT (45.6%)
b.	due to surface forces:	1,446,118 GRT (9.2%)
c.	due to mines (including aerial mines):	1,311,416 GRT (8.4%)
Total losses inflicted by the German Navy:		9,902,350 GRT (63.2%)
d.	by the Air Force:	2,642,325 GRT (16.8%)
e.	confiscated:	567,165 GRT (3.6%)
German Share:		13,111,840 GRT (83.6%)
f.	other Axis successes:	1,573,873 GRT (10 %)
g.	through other causes:	1,004,752 GRT (6.4%)
	Total losses:	15,690,465 GRT (100%)

Of the total achieved by German submarines, 162 ships totalling 1,057,106 GRT were sunk off the U.S. East Coast between the middle of January and the end of March 1942; of these 69 were tankers, totalling 555,975 GRT.

A detailed report of the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch (3 Skl FH B.Nr. 6588/42 Geh.) dated 10 Apr. 1942 was sent directly to the War Diary Section.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

A number of submarine sighting reports were again intercepted from off the coast of the United States, primarily the waters east of Cape Hatteras and Cape Charles. The United States steamer PIPESTONE COUNTY (5,102 GRT) was torpedoed 250 miles southeast of Nantucket Island.

In the West Indies 2 submarines were sighted in the waters off Anagada. The area between 25° 10' N, 29° 36' N, 82° 10' W, and 81° 30' W was declared to be dangerous.

2. Own Situation:

For distribution of our submarines see Supplementary Submarine Situation. 54 operational submarines were at sea.

North of Windward Passage submarine U "154" sank one steamer of 3,500 GRT.

No reports of sinkings were received from the American coast.

Submarine U "81" sank the tanker AHAMO (8,261 GRT) and her escort in

the eastern part of the Mediterranean. In addition, the boat annihilated a total of 6 sailing vessels.

For supplement to the submarine situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

The Commanding Admiral, Submarines in requested to furnish information concerning the Japanese submarine bound for France and the supplies wanted by the submarine; he is, likewise, requested to state whether a submarine pen large enough to accommodate a 2,500 ton boat is available in western France (copies of request sent to Group West and the Submarine Division, Naval Staff). For copy see 1/Skl I k 9202/42 Gkdos. War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Off Little Hampton a steamer of 3,000 GRT was sunk by a dive-bomber attack. During the night a German plane attacked the explosives and ammunition factory of the British Admiralty in Holton Heath and observed a bright reflection from the explosion.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

British bombers which were brought up from Egypt and which are now based on Malta unsuccessfully attacked the German tanker PANUCO with aerial torpedoes during the night of 20 Apr.

In the daytime the newly-arrived planes on Malta airfields were attacked by the German Air Force operating with strong fighter protection. At the same time a formation of dive-bombers attacked Valletta harbor. 7 British fighters were shot down. For details see daily situation. On 20 Apr. an Italian plane attacked a medium-sized merchant ship with aerial torpedoes northwest of Alexandria and reported that it left the ship listing.

3. Eastern Front:

According to the radio intercept service and prisoner statements the enemy has difficulties with the fuel which is to be delivered by the British via Basrah. The Russian Air Force did not change its code on 1 Apr. as did the Russian Army. For other enemy information in connection with the Russian Air Force see daily situation.

No special reports were received with respect to German operations.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

During the night of 20 Apr. a cruiser of the CAIRO class arrived in Gibraltar from an unknown direction. In the morning she departed with two destroyers in a westerly direction. The RENOWN, a cruiser of the DIDO class, 7 destroyers, as well as a mine layer of the WELSHMAN class arrived from the west.

According to an intelligence report a convoy of approximately 15 ships

is expected to leave Gibraltar within the next few days.

No additional reports were received on the enemy force reported north of Algiers on 20 Apr. Details of the damage and casualties inflicted on 26 Mar. by the air attacks on the latest Malta-bound convoy were obtained by radio monitoring. According to this information damage was done to the cruiser CLEOPATRA; and the destroyers KINGSTON and HAVOC of the escort force, as well as to the steamer BRECONSHIRE during the voyage. The destroyer HAVOC was later scuttled off the coast of Tunisia. Escort vessel SOUTHWOLD hit a mine and sank. During the air attacks on 26 Mar. cruiser PENELOPE was damaged; she is at present in dock in Gibraltar. The destroyer LEGION was sunk, a submarine was damaged, an auxiliary ship was damaged and grounded, 2 trawlers were set afire and were probably lost.

No ship movements were observed in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.

2. Own Situation:

The scheduled operation of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla was cancelled because of unfavorable weather.

3. Situation Italy:

During the night of 20 Apr. Benghazi was attacked by enemy planes.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

In the evening of 20 Apr. the Tripoli-bound tanker PANUCO was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aerial torpedoes off Lampedusa. For details see aerial situation. Nothing else to report.

A report drawn up by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch shows that fully loaded supply transports for Africa are held back in port for unreasonably long periods. 10 steamers, for example, were held in port for periods ranging from 11 to 47 days. These delays are in no way justified by the naval and air situation in the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean situation permits relaxation of present security measures and ought to enable us to use all our resources in an effort to increase supply shipments to North Africa. It is possible that the enemy will again release naval forces for operations in the Mediterranean or that these duties will be taken over by the United States Naval Forces. The time may also come when the German Armed Forces will no longer be able to strike at British Naval Forces or bases to the extent possible thus far, and when every convoy will once again involve a much harder struggle. For this reason it is necessary to postpone everything else that can possibly be postponed in order to boost supplies to North Africa with literally all means at our disposal. A similar practice was followed in the coastal waters of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea where extensive merchant shipping operations were suspended from time to time to make way for one single large shipment of supplies to Norway. The War Diary of the German Admiral in Rome shows that the German Naval Command, Italy evaluates and tries to handle the problem in a similar fashion. The Chief, Naval Staff requests the German Admiral in Rome to inform Admiral Riccardi of this viewpoint and to explain the situation to him in detail.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Following an exchange of gunfire with a surfaced British

submarine a patrol boat sank off Suda Bay in the afternoon.

Destroyer ZG "3" was on maneuvers in Megara Bay.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

On the basis of photographic reconnaissance, Air Commander South reports the following Russian naval forces ready for action: 1 battleship, 2 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 2 flotilla leaders, 11 destroyers, 5 torpedo boats, 29 submarines, and several small vessels. The other cruisers, destroyers, and submarines are lying in dock or are not ready for action. For details see Telegram 1145.

Evaluation of air reconnaissance shows an increasing concentration of enemy naval forces entering the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait, and assembling at Akhtari, Yeisk, and as far up as Azov. They are small vessels of various types with a displacement of no larger than 300 tons, gathered from the coast of the Caucasus, as well as mine layers, mine sweepers, and motor mine sweepers. The gathering of these forces leads to the conclusion that the enemy is preparing for an operation against the northern coast of the Sea of Azov.

Own Situation:

The escort operation Ochakov-Sulina has been carried out according to schedule. On 19 Apr. naval transports began to operate according to schedule in the Sea of Azov.

IX. Situation East Asia

The Japanese Naval Staff reports in connection with the sinking of the aircraft carrier HERMES that 70 carrier-based dive bombers escorted by 9 fighter planes dropped 250 kilogram bombs on the HERMES and an escorting destroyer 70 miles southeast of Trincomali. Both ships sank immediately. The planes on the HERMES did not take off and there was only little anti-aircraft fire. 9 Spitfires, which came from the direction of Ceylon, were shot down. 9 Japanese dive bombers were lost. The Japanese fleet force was unsuccessfully counterattacked by 9 Blenheims, 7 of which were shot down by Japanese fighter planes.

The Air Attache in Tokyo reports that on 18 Apr. 3 U.S. aircraft carriers, 2 cruisers, and several destroyers were sighted at 155° E, 36° N. After about 12 bombers had taken off, the carriers changed course to the east so that the Japanese bomber force sent up in pursuit was unable to reach them. The planes attacking Tokyo continued their flight in the direction of China after dropping their 200 kg. bombs. According to the pilots of the pursuing fighters the speed of the American bombers was 500 kilometers. The damage done was negligible.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

There was isolated assault troop activity on both sides. Near Bulatselovka an armored enemy train shelled a German position for the

first time. The roads are beginning to dry and the flood waters of the Donets river are receding.

Central Army Group:

Along the railroad line Bryansk-Roslavl partisans blew up the tracks at six different places. The railroad station Bryansk South was damaged considerably by enemy air attacks. The enemy blocked the supply road between Byeloi and Novoselki. In front of the northern flank of the 4th Panzer Army Sector 4 to 5 enemy divisions were observed assembling. Isolated small-scale enemy attacks against various positions were repulsed. Thanks to the weather and the wind which continue to be dry and warm, the condition of the roads is improving. The flatlands are still very muddy.

Northern Army Group:

The Von Seydlitz Group has taken Ramushevo from the north. Due to the floods it is very difficult to bring up our tanks into the attacking spearheads. Small enemy forces attacked near the Polist River and southeast of Maluksa. Enemy gunfire caused considerable German casualties because shelters and dugouts are unusable due to the floods.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

At the Svir Front an enemy attack in battalion strength was repulsed.

3. North Africa:

There was lively enemy reconnaissance activity along the entire front. Lively artillery activity on both sides.

The liaison officer of the Military Attache in Rome attached to the Italian High Command in North Africa reports that Italian authorities believe it to be very unlikely for the enemy to plan a large-scale operation to conquer Tripolitania in view of the tense situation in the Near and Far East. In the light of the over-all situation it seems that an offensive with the rather limited objective of retaking Cyrenaica is hardly worthwhile. Such an offensive would be justified only for reasons of political propaganda.

> One good motive for such an operation would be the capture of the Benghazi airfield for the purpose of relieving Malta.

The Italian High Command believes it advisable to strike at the Ain El Gazala position now while the Axis forces have the advantage of superiority in tanks and heavy artillery. The enemy will have less difficulty than we in replenishing his supplies due to the extension of the railroad in the direction of El Adem. If this first operation is successful the seizure of Tobruk could be aimed at next. It is estimated that British forces stationed there consist of only 2 or 3 brigades at present.

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22 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain and U.S.A.:

The Military Attache in Madrid reports that according to the information of the British Embassy Roosevelt sent Hopkins and Marshall to London following a session of the Supreme War Council, in order to inform Churchill that according to reliable information the Japanese will attack India instead of Australia so as to join forces with Germany by way of the Persian Gulf and Iran. Therefore Churchill is to attack Germany with all means available on the west coast of Europe and in Libya. The latter campaign would have to be prepared very thoroughly in view of the reinforcements received by Rommel. The African campaign is said to be especially important since an effort must be made to gain full control of this continent. Over and above this Great Britain is to render aid to Russia with every possible means.

Vichy Telegraphic Service reports that Eden announced in the House of Commons that Churchill has approved the creation of a general staff for combined operations. This same source reports from Washington that it is planned to make more frequent Commando raids on the German-occupied coasts of Europe, and to establish a bridgehead on the channel coast, since the Allies so far do not have enough men and equipment for a large-scale invasion. The Vichy Telegraphic Service report continues that General Marshall's return to the United States has reawakened that country's interest in opening a second front in Europe. Continued Russian resistance is said to be the prerequisite for final victory. According to British press reports Marshall and Hopkins returned to Washington with definite plans. Great Britain's great weakness today is on the sea. It may become necessary for her to concentrate on fast and heavily armored small vessels so as to compensate for the lack of shipping space for future operations. Today the bottleneck is no longer production of weapons but of shipping space.

> In this connection it must be admitted that with raids, landings, and other operations, and his unceasing propaganda the enemy has really succeeded in tying up strong German forces along the Western and Northern Fronts at the expense of the Eastern Front, and in arousing great concern in our coastal defenses and command headquarters. This fact is borne out by the extensive troop transfers to Norway, the accelerated reinforcement of coastal defenses in Norway and the West Area, and increasing anxiety among our military leaders.

Reuter reports that in a "White Paper" Churchill has discussed in greater detail the organization required to coordinate the joint war plans. According to this the final authority in matters pertaining to the conduct of the war rests with the War Cabinet, with the Chiefs of Staff acting in the capacity of expert advisors. Their work, in turn, is directed by Churchill and the Defense Committee. The latter is composed of Churchill, Attlee, Eden, Lyttleton, the Chiefs of Staff of the 3 branches of the Armed Forces, and the Chief of Staff of Combined Operations.

According to Reuter the British Government is hoping to cut coal consumption in Great Britain by 10 million tons annually by means of the

impending rationing of coal, coke, petroleum, gas, and electricity. The expected increase in sinkings will lead to further cuts in the food rations.

India:

In a radio address General Wavell called on the people of India to be calm and disciplined. He called attention to the difficulties facing the enemy because of the remoteness of his bases, the vulnerability of his supply lines, and the great vastness of India.

According to foreign reports London is planning to invite representative Indian leaders in order to resume the negotiations which had been broken off.

France:

According to a report from the German Embassy it is expected that to begin with Laval will request Germany to grant the following:

Reduce the occupation costs;
Discharge prisoners of war and change their status to that of contract workers;
Transfer the government to Paris;
Lift the line of demarkation, that is, facilitate commerce between the occupied and unoccupied territories.

Laval told the Japanese charge d'affaires that in the future France will follow a policy of close collaboration with Germany. France will be Japan's friend in the Far East.

Norway:

According to German diplomatic reports, 90% of Norway's population still believe in Great Britain's final victory. Norwegian intelligentsia are of the opinion that in the long run Germany will be crushed by the superior economic resources of the Anglo-Americans. As regards internal affairs, the position of the Quisling government is made more difficult by the fact that a state of war still exists between Norway and the so-called friendly Germany.

Japan:

The Embassy reports that Japan intends to introduce a five-year plan for the purpose of raising the production of cotton in the southern areas. Japanese authorities anticipate that the conversion of agriculture in these areas, particularly in the sugar-raising areas of the Philippines will present considerable difficulties.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The situation in the Lofoten area had been ordered investigated with view to the possible transfer of seaplanes to that area. It was found that 1 squadron of He 115 (floatplanes) is stationed in Tromsoe and that it is planned to transfer a flight of BV 138 (seaplanes). 1 squadron of BV 138's is stationed in Trondheim.

II. The Chief, Naval Staff, Communications Division reports that the Japanese have now chosen 2 officers to be trained in the use of radar. It is now the time for the competent authorities to take up the matter of Japanese repayments for German deliveries. So far, by negotiating with separate departments, the Japanese have managed to secure for themselves a number of things, which were usually given very readily as a matter of military need. At the same time the provisions for repayment drawn up by the German Ministry of Economics and the Foreign Office were disregarded.

III. The Commander in Chief, Navy repeats once more the irrevocable directive concerning the procurement of copper in the presence of the Chief, Naval Ordnance Division and the section chiefs attending today's conference on the situation (cf. War Diary 21 Apr.). The cargo of the steamer which sank off St. Nazaire includes more than 1,000 tons of copper and tin.

IV. The Chief, Naval Ordnance Division reports on the conference of the Chief, Naval Staff with Minister Speer. It becomes very clear to what extent this Minister is involved in every phase of armament, and the shift of responsibility from the Ordnance Divisions to the Ministry of Armament and Ammunitions is very evident. The manpower situation presents an unfavorable picture. The coal situation is critical. Drastic measures are planned to cut down consumption. The quota for Italy will also be reduced. The Fuehrer has issued a new directive requiring the branches of the Armed Forces to show how much iron they need for actual combat and how much for other purposes.

V. The Chief, Underwater Obstacles Branch reports on the trial barrage laid by submarine U "116". The Commander in Chief, Navy will decide whether or not the new SMA mines will be declared ready for use at the front. The action of the Commanding Admiral, Submarines and the Naval Staff in recalling submarine U "116" from the mission meets approval.

VI. The Chief, Naval Staff was very favorably impressed by the crew during his inspection of cruiser LUETZOW. The captain of the cruiser was very anxious to have his ship assigned to cruiser warfare overseas. The Naval Staff will reconsider using the LUETZOW and the SCHEER in this capacity.

VII. The Chief, Naval Staff, Operations Division discusses the Naval Staff report sent to the Armed Forces High Command concerning the measures taken for the protection of Norway (cf. War Diary 18 Apr.). The report was made as the result of orders issued by the Armed Forces High Command following Field Marshal List's account of his trip to Norway in February and March 1942.

Action will be taken in acccrdance with 1/Skl Ia 8478/42 Gkdos. and 8097/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa (cf. also War Diary 8 Apr. 1942). The Chief, Naval Staff approves.

For the subsequent report concerning plans of Group North for warfare in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland see 1/Skl 9161/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III (cf. War Diary 18 Apr.).

VIII. The Chief, Naval Intelligence Division discusses the following report sent on 17 Apr. by Feller, an American official in Cairo, to the War Department in Washington: "On Malta as of 2 Apr. only 4 bombers remained out of a total of 35, only 11 Spitfires out of a total of 27,

only 11 other fighter planes out of a total of 72. Malta has been abandoned as a base for surface vessels. Submarines generally suffer damage in the harbor. Convoys have ceased to come to Malta. Twice a week supplies arrive by submarine, but the number of submarines available in the eastern part of the Mediterranean is limited. The supplies on the island will last for a period of 7 weeks. Conclusion: The number of Axis troops and the activity of the Axis Powers in the Aegean Sea indicate more than mere defensive training operations. At present bases are being prepared in the Aegean in support of an expedition into the Mediterranean. The means for a combined naval-air action for the purpose of occupying Malta can easily be made available, although they have not been assembled as yet. The situation on Malta remains extremely critical."

The report of 17 Apr. mentions the following possibilities for relieving the situation on Malta:

1. Bringing the fighter planes on Malta up to strength,
2. British occupation of Benghazi to get an air base for fighter escorts of Malta-bound convoys,
3. Commitment of long-range bombers based in Egypt against the German naval base in Sicily,
4. Sabotage in Sicily.

Fellers believes that Great Britain is too weak to seize Benghazi prior to 1 June, and that it is therefore too late to save Malta. He makes the urgent request to keep this report confidential and not to show it to the British.

IX. The Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff discusses the report on the situation submitted 18 Apr. by the Naval Liaison Officer attached to the Army High Command relative to Fuehrer directive No. 41. He emphasizes again the need for utmost secrecy. Dates set for the Navy in connection with Crimean operations are being postponed by 3 to 4 weeks. Attention is called to the situation at the Western Front where it will be the job of the Naval Staff to employ all facilities of intelligence, reconnaissance, and calculation in order to learn the enemy's plans so as to be able to issue warnings or to give reassurance.

Copy of extract as per 1/Skl 794/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary Files "Barbarossa".

Special Items:

I. The Fleet Command reports that it is impossible to release fuel oil from the fleet quota for the training of destroyer Z "29" as requested. (See Teletype Message 0045.)

Another instance of the fatal bottleneck!

II. On the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the occupation of Norway, the Commanding Admiral, Norway sent an activity report to the Commander in Chief, Navy together with his views on certain command problems. He agrees for instance with the Admiral, Arctic Ocean that the latter's authority should extend over a large operational area representing an organic whole, so that he himself will be in a position to commit his

forces over a large area along unified lines and plans. The command area should extend eastward approximately from the line Lofoten Islands-Jan Mayen. As responsible operational commander faced with particularly difficult tasks the Admiral, Arctic Ocean should be free to make his own decisions, and his actions should be guided by directives only.

In the meantime the Admiral, Arctic Ocean was put under the direct operational command of Group North; thus the first step has been taken to improve the situation. The Commanding Admiral, Norway agreed to this measure in the interest of the cause, although it was naturally very hard for him to turn the particularly attractive operational tasks over to Group North. Evidently, however, this measure prompted him to advise greater operational freedom for Admiral, Arctic Ocean, Schmundt. Commanding Admiral, Boehm feared that Admiral Schmundt's efficiency might be impaired due to psychological pressure arising from the fact that his authority had not been clearly defined. Therefore Admiral Boehm felt called upon to state explicitly that Group North should confine itself to issuing directives to Admiral Schmundt. He feels that in these critical days at any rate the position of Admiral, Arctic Ocean must be maintained and everything should be done to keep Admiral Schmundt in his present capacity.

The Naval Staff fully agrees with this viewpoint.

In his report the Commanding Admiral, Norway brought up the question of mines requested for and delivered to Norway. The Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff looked into the matter and made a report to the Chief, Naval Staff. He stated that the Commanding Admiral, Norway evidently had the wrong impression when he said that the Naval High Command had approved delivery of only half of the mines requested.

As a matter of fact the Naval Staff immediately approved the number of mines requested in full, and orders went out without delay to effect their shipment, as was done for the greater part. Only delivery of about 300 mines was delayed by about 2 weeks, because the mine anchor cables needed were not available. Yet even these mines arrived at their destination prior to the beginning of the mining operations.

Copy of letter under Ob.d.M. 282/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

Situation 22 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

No information or reports were received from our own vessels.

Radiogram 1656 was sent to the TANNENFELS with instructions for the rest of her voyage to Japan.

Radiogram 0705 informed DOGGERBANK of enemy patrols in the area 420

miles south-southwest of Capetown and congratulated her on sinking 1 Dutch and 1 unidentified vessel off Capetown on 16 Mar.

Radiograms 1548 and 0540 were sent to all our ships in foreign waters informing them of the above-mentioned mine success of the DOGGERBANK, as well as about the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

In the morning according to radio intelligence 5 motor gun boats and 1 mine layer were on a mining operation in Dover waters. At 0950 after losing 1 vessel the formation was on its way back to Dover. During the night of 21 Apr. a German westbound formation was located repeatedly between 2255 and 0100. Gravelines informed the commanding officer of the British PT boats of the German formation. He received orders to attack from the west. At noon destroyers VALOROUS and WOOLSTON were located at sea in the western part of the Channel.

At 1800 Daventry announced that in the early morning of 22 Apr. British commandos carried out operations on the French coast near Boulogne. "The patrol penetrated inside the coastal defense and withdrew after 2 hours, suffering very negligible losses. Not a single British ship was damaged. 1 German trawler was severely damaged, a second one was set afire."

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The Naval Attache in Madrid reports that the FUSIJAMA was not damaged but that she put into Corcubion Bay because an enemy plane was maintaining contact. The steamer was given instructions to continue her voyage by night at top speed and to proceed to the French coast through territorial waters without putting in at any other Spanish port.

Channel Coast:

During the night of 21 Apr. the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla carried out its mining operation according to schedule without interference. For brief report see Telegram 1040.

During the same night a group of the 4th PT Boat Flotilla exchanged fire at close range with 3 enemy motor gun boats off Nord-Hinder. 1 enemy boat was hit.. PT boat "S 52" was damaged, reducing her speed. Another group of this flotilla was unable to shake off enemy shadowers and broke off its mining operation because of fog. Homeward bound it fired on 2 enemy motor gun boats which failed to return the fire. For brief report see Telegram 1040.

During that same night beginning 0205 two groups of the 38th Mine Sweeper Flotilla had 2 engagements with 5 enemy PT and motor gun boats southwest of Cape d'Alprech. Evidently suffering several hits, the enemy vessels withdrew out to sea. Our forces suffered no losses. For excerpt of brief report, see Telegram 1353.

Between 0230 and 0330 the batteries located between Gris Nez and Le Touquet were alerted by a report of enemy ships in the vicinity. Action was not possible due to the engagement of the 38th Mine Sweeper Flotilla. An enemy assault troop reported at 0330 in 2 boats was fired upon by an army patrol in front of the wire barrage near Hardelot Plage (5.5 kilometers south of Boulogne). Putting up a smoke screen the men withdrew into the boats, leaving behind weapons and equipment including land mines. Some of the telephone cables connecting the batteries with the divisional command posts had been cut.

The attack was evidently aimed at a naval radar station near the spot of the landing.

Special Items:

1. The Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Group West, and the Tactical Branch of the Submarine Division, Naval Staff were informed that the expected Japanese submarine will arrive at the French coast about the middle of July, and that she plans to leave for home early in August (see Telegram 1524).

2. Regarding the new construction program calling for suspension of work on escort mine sweepers, Group West emphasizes again how important it is to build fast well-armed escort vessels. The need for them is especially great in the Channel area where the German Navy lacks motor gun boats to combat British PT boats. (See Telegram 0910.)

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

The attempt to tow off the tanker EUROSEE has failed. After hitting a mine in the Hubert Gat the light artillery carrier LAT "27" ran aground while being towed in.

Aerial mines are suspected off Esbjerg and off the river estuaries in the German Bight.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance located 8 merchant ships in Kola Bay west of Murmansk, and 1 war ship, evidently a large one, north of Murmansk.

Own Situation:

Among the subjects mentioned in the report of the Commanding Admiral, Norway 2 items seem important: The sinking of the steamer BLANKENESE (3,000 GRT), loaded with ballast, by an enemy submarine off Vardoe and the salvaging of the SIMON OF UTRECHT. For details see Telegram 1815.

Making reference to the experiences gained during operations against convoy PQ 14, Group North informed the Commanding Admiral, Norway and Admiral, Arctic Ocean that it is expected to achieve greater results in future operations against PQ convoys by the following measures (copies to Naval Staff and Commanding Admiral, Submarines):

a. An attempt should be made to locate and attack the convoy at an early stage by a submarine pack stationed even further west that heretofore.

b. The main force should continue to have its position in the western part of the strait between northern Norway and Bear Island.

c. If convoy location reports are good and the convoy is proceeding on large zig-zag courses, the submarines should attack from a not too broad but rather deeply echeloned patrol line slowly moving west.

d. According to our latest plans, the waters at the entrance of Kola Bay should be mined shortly before the convoy arrives, first by destroyers, later on by PT boats.

e. Submarines should not be employed in the dangerous and narrow coastal waters of Kola Bay. Instead, concentrated attacks should be carried out by air forces in that area. In this way the submarines will also be available sooner for other operations.

f. Far-reaching restrictions are to be observed in dealing with empty westbound convoys.

Therefore Group North plans the following:

a. Group North will dispatch the western submarine pack to the area east of Jan Mayen in time to operate against convoy PQ 15.

b. Admiral, Arctic Ocean is to commit the main group in the western part of the Bear Island strait.

c. Over-all direction of the operation is to be given to the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean in good time.

d. Furthermore, mines are to be layed at the entrance to Kola Bay in accordance with previous plans, first by destroyers, then by PT boats (see Telegram 1933).

This detailed account of considerations and plans gives Naval Staff the impression that Naval Group North has finally decided to follow the suggestion repeatedly expressed by the Naval Staff. The Naval Staff had proposed that the submarines should operate more to the west, while the coastal waters of the Kola Bay should be cleared of submarines in preference to mining operations and air activity. However, judging from our experiences with the heavily escorted convoy PQ 14, the Naval Staff doubts the advisability of concentrating the main weight of the attack in the Bear Island strait. Considering these the most dangerous waters, the enemy will no doubt protect his PQ convoys more heavily there than at any other point of the voyage by withdrawing part of the escort forces accompanying the less valuable QP convoys. Consequently it may be wiser to concentrate the main weight of the operations further west, in the Jan Mayen area. It would be preferable not to divide the available submarines into 2 groups so as to avoid weakening our forces.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

Steamers POTSDAM and GNEISENAU are en route from Kiel to Stettin. Escort and mine-sweeping operations are proceeding according to schedule. Aerial mines are suspected in the western part of the Baltic Sea, Kiel Harbor, and the Belts.

The units which Group North attached to the Commander, Mine Sweepers, North Sea have now also been put under that officer's administrative command by the Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

A plane reported passing over a submarine about 210 miles southwest of Brest; another plane reported a suspicious oil spot about 155 miles southwest of Ouessant.

3 submarines were reported sighted off the United States coast: One off Cape Hatteras, one 60 miles south of New York, and one 170 miles southwest of Bermuda.

The report of the Schenectady radio station concerning capture of an undamaged German submarine (see War Diary 15 Apr.) has been supplemented by the statement that this submarine has now been sent out under the command of a Canadian commander. The entire German crew is said to be prisoners of war in Canada. The Commanding Admiral, Submarines has been informed.

No reports were received from the West Indies.

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "201" reports from the U.S. coast that she sank 3 steamers totalling 20,000 GRT and torpedoed a tanker of 10,000 GRT.

For details of the submarine situation see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

At the suggestion of the Chief, Naval Staff (see War Diary 17 Apr.), Naval Staff asked the Commanding Admiral, Submarines for a statement concerning the use of submarines for mine-laying operations in the White Sea. The Commanding Admiral, Submarines replied as follows:

1. While the Commanding Admiral, Submarines agrees that it would be desirable to use a large mine-laying submarine for mining operations in Kola Bay, he believes that this cannot be done at this time of year because of the following reasons:

a. Due to the light nights it seems very unlikely that the area to be mined could be reached undetected and the mission completed successfully.

b. Therefore the submarines must anticipate heavy opposition.

Once the boat is detected, the continuous daylight will make it difficult, if not impossible, to escape. Even a small number of patrol

boats and planes are sufficient to cause the submarine to exhaust her oxygen supply and force her to surface. The large submarine of the latest type is still untested in combat; it would be particularly dangerous to expose her to depth charge attacks on her first mission.

2. For the above-mentioned reasons the chances of success and failure are such that it appears advisable tc refrain from using boats of Type VIID as well. (See Telegram 2130.)

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the night a small number of German planes again attacked the explosives and munitions factory in Holton Heath. The enemy concentrated his night air activity on the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area, where some damage was done to industrial installations. 31 planes were reported over District Air Command, Belgium-Northern France, and 50 planes over District Air Command, Western France.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Attacks on Valetta and the airfields on Malta continued. During the night of 21 Apr. nine German bombers were damaged by enemy raids against airfields in Sicily.

3. Eastern Front:

On 21 Apr. Kerch and Novorossisk were successfully attacked. 1 steamer of 5,000 GRT was heavily damaged. On 22 Apr. mines were laid in the harbor of Kamish Burun.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

At noon mine layer MANXMAN left Gibraltar in westerly direction. At 1700 2 British PT boats were standing off Melilla. Off Tobruk an eastbound convoy consisting of 4 steamers escorted by 1 destroyer and 5 patrol vessels was sighted. According to radio intelligence cruisers DIDO and EURYALUS as well as 6 destroyers participated in the attack on Rhodes on 15 Mar.

2. Own Situation:

During the night of 20 Apr. six boats of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla layed mines off Malta according to plan. For report on the mine situation see Telegram 1130.

3. Situation Italy:

Enemy planes attacked Benghazi in the evening of 21 Apr.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

On 20 Apr. the steamer UNA (1,397 GRT) was damaged when she ran aground south of Benghazi. Work is under way to salvage the vessel. Other ship movements are proceeding according to plan.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

At 0630 shore batteries between the Gulf of Suda and Rethymno fired on an enemy submarine. The attention of Group South was called to the fact that the Naval Staff deems it necessary to investigate the cause of the explosion of a river mine Type B at Genichesk, if necessary by court-martial proceedings (see Telegram 2120).

Black Sea:

In the evening of 21 Apr. enemy planes attacked the shore batteries of Sulina, causing loss of life.

Convoy and escort service is continuing according to schedule. In Varna work has begun to convert the future PT boat escort vessel ROMANIA.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

The Military Attache in Tokyo reports that army troops were responsible for the landing on Cebu. Japan used Indian troops in Burma only. The Military Attache in Bangkok reports that the Japanese think much of the Chinese troops in the Sittang Valley. Due to the terrain in the Burmese theater of war the advance will be very difficult from now on.

British claims that Japanese battleships have appeared in the Bay of Bengal are incorrect.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Little fighting activity.

Central Army Group:

There was fighting activity in the Fomina area. North of the Volga new airborne enemy troops are being employed. Enemy attacks in the area near Rzhev were repulsed. The supply road south of Byelev was blocked off by the enemy. Between Velikie Luki and Nevel a non-contact enemy mine severely damaged a German armored train.

Northern Army Group:

At the Demyansk front 2 German spearheads are fighting des-

perately trying to join forces. East of the defensive front at the Volkhov River mopping-up operations were completed; in the west fighting is still continuing. In the pocket west of Yamno enemy troops are receiving supplies by way of the almost completed field railway extending there from Malaya Vishera.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Mopping-up operations along the Aunus front are continuing. In the Loukhi sector enemy reconnaissance troops were repulsed.

3. North Africa:

Due to the strong sand storms, there was only little artillery and reconnaissance activity on both sides.

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Items of Political Importance

France:

Turkish diplomatic circles claim that Laval has gained control of France mainly because of Great Britain's unreasonable attitude toward France.

A diplomatic source called rumors unfounded which originated in Morocco and claim that Laval's assumption of office may possibly lead to the secession of French North Africa. Responsible French military circles on the other hand feel that sporadic Anglo-American actions such as air attacks on French warships or an operation against Dakar may be launched for the purpose of provoking the new government. The general impression is, however, that at present there is no cause for real anxiety.

Certain restrictions have been imposed on British citizens in Madagascar. The population is said to be pro-British while government officials are taking an anti-British attitude. According to British reports many De Gaulle followers were arrested and the entire white population of 35,000 is under very close surveillance.

Great Britain:

In the House of Commons the Government made no reply to questions concerning the establishment of a Second Front. In the House of Lords the opposition criticized inadequate coordination of allied strategy. In reply Government spokesmen asserted that Great Britain, the United States, and China are cooperating closely with one another and that there is no need for a combined general staff in Moscow because the Russians are quite capable of conducting their campaign without British or American advice.

Cripps declared before representatives of the Press that in spite of the fact that negotiations have failed, it will be possible to solve the Indian question before the end of this war. He said that it is entirely feasible to form a new government made up of representative Indians; however, it will take some time to draft a new constitution.

Egypt:

The Government declared it would loyally observe and live up to the Anglo-Egyptian agreements, but would not call upon Egyptian soldiers or workers to take an active part in the war effort. Expressly approving the arrest of former Prime Minister Mahir Pasha, the Cabinet gave the Government a vote of confidence by a vote of 195, with 56 refraining from voting.

U.S.A.:

According to Transocean, it has become known in connection with the Marshall and Hopkins conference in London that Roosevelt is using all his influence to effect the establishment of an Allied front in western Europe, even at the risk of failure in the beginning. Roosevelt is said to believe that such a Second Front will more effectively support Russia than an increase in the shipments of war materials, especially since such shipments are being hampered greatly by the growing lack of shipping space. Besides, the American public would prefer to see Anglo-American troops use American equipment on the continent rather than allowing it to get into the hands of the Russians. From another source

it can be deduced that aside from frequent nuisance raids great value is being attached to the establishment of at least one firm bridgehead on the coast of France; it is to be reinforced to such an extent that it can serve as a base for future offensive operations.

According to a statement by Colonel Johnson some American troops have already arrived in India with others still to follow. He said that a U.S. technical commission is studying the question of how American effort might increase India's defensive strength.

According to a New York broadcast, a unified U.S.-New Zealand naval command was formed which will operate independently from MacArthur's command.

Japan:

Discussing Russo-Japanese relations in a speech, Foreign Minister Togo remarked that Russia is not going to make the big mistake of pulling chestnuts out of the fire for Great Britain and the United States.

The spokesman for the Japanese government warned the Japanese people over the air to beware of unfounded over-optimism, and told them that they will have to expect that the enemy will be better and better prepared as time goes on.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff reports that the transports to the Finnish area were carried out according to instructions, and that the naval troops for the occupation of the islands off the west coast of France have been activated and deployed. (See War Diary 21 Apr.)

II. The next report concerns a recent executive order of the Armed Forces Operations Staff concerning Fuehrer Directive No. 40. From the Navy point of view this order must be regarded as a gross relapse into the original interpretation of the directive with respect to the command jurisdiction over seaward coastal defenses. The earlier interpretation had been changed at the insistence of the Navy. According to this latest change however not only the over-all direction and defense on land would fall within the measures aimed at by directive No. 40, but also the preparation and planning of the defense of the coast itself, as well as the safeguarding and patrolling of coastal waters. This order constitutes an encroachment upon the clearly defined tasks of the Navy as confirmed by the Fuehrer. For copy of order issued by the Armed Forces Operations Staff see 1/Skl .... (Tr.Note: Further reference omitted) War Diary, Part C, Vol.X.

The Chief, Naval Staff orders that the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff shall personally bring these facts to the attention of the Armed Forces Operations Staff in the presence of the Fuehrer, and that he shall protest against the order in the name of the Commander in Chief, Navy.

III. Next the Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff brings up the request of the Commanding General, Army, Lapland for information on naval matters: The Commanding General, Army, Lapland had advised the Armed Forces Operations Staff that information given him on naval missions and operations was entirely inadequate, especially with regard to the activities of naval forces in Scandinavian waters. He asked that

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the Navy be instructed to keep the Commanding General, Army, Lapland as promptly and regularly informed as it does the Commanding General, Army, Norway with regard to the following subjects:

a. Results of naval reconnaissance in the Scandinavian area,

b. distribution of German naval forces in that area,

c. operations and missions of these naval forces,

d. all orders which will affect the situation in the coastal sector under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Army, Lapland.

Local liaison and cooperation between the Admiral, Arctic Ocean and the Commanding General, Army, Norway are said to be functioning satisfactorily.

The Deputy Chief, Armed Forces Operations Staff rejected these demands of the Commanding General, Army, Lapland because they were too far-reaching in his opinion. The Commanding General, Army, Lapland was advised of this decision by a telegram, for the text of which see War Diary, 17 Apr, "Norway, Own Situation". At that time the Navy was not familiar as yet with the story behind this telegram.

For copy of the entire correspondence on this matter see 1/Skl 9303/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

IV. The Naval Staff, Foreign Affairs Section reports on the German-Swedish controversy concerning the armament of Norwegian vessels in Swedish ports and the sending of S.O.S. calls by the Goeteborg transmitter on behalf of the tanker NEWTON. For details see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

V. The Chief, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff next discusses the possible transfer of the Admiral, Black Sea from Bucharest to Constanta, and later on to Sevastopol. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division believes that the place of the Admiral, Black Sea is at the coast and that for the sake of expediency the Naval Group Command, South ought to be transferred from Sofia to Bucharest. So far this plan has not been carried out because some of the authorities concerned have misgivings about it, but it will have to be put into effect eventually. However, it might be arranged to leave the Quartermaster Staff of the Admiral, Black Sea in Bucharest, since Naval Group South does not think that in addition to its other tasks it can attend to those duties of the Admiral, Black Sea which can be performed only at the seat of the Rumanian government. As to the organization of the Naval Transport Command for the Black Sea the essential part of the measures planned by the Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff will be carried out. These measures are clearly aimed at bringing these particular duties under the control of the Admiral, Black Sea and the naval shore commands. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff has ordered an appropriate organization set up in accordance with the proposal.

VI. The Naval Staff is opposed to the plan of Naval Group North to assign the 7th Mine Sweeper Flotilla to the Commander, Mine Sweepers, Baltic, because in accordance with explicit orders of the Naval Staff, this flotilla had been set aside by Group North for employment in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Norway. The necessity of closing the entrance of Trondheim Fjord and the desperate need for escort vessels make it essential that the Commanding Admiral, Norway receive replacements of vessels in good condition, not the sort of boats requiring shipyard overhaul after a short while.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees with this opinion of the Naval Staff. Instructions in accordance herewith were sent to Naval Group North; see Telegram 1/Skl 9397/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff also opposes the plan of Group North to employ the SCHLESIEN and the EMDEN in the approaches to the Baltic Sea, because this would necessitate withdrawing these indispensable ships from the training program. The Chief, Naval Staff also agrees with the opinion that these ships be used only in cases of emergency, provided the crew in training remains aboard.

Special Items:

I. In connection with the British operation against St. Nazaire on 28 Mar. the Naval Staff sent a summary of reports received to all operational commands at the front and to all offices concerned in the Naval High Command. For copy see 1/Skl I a 8308/42 Gkdos. in reference files "British Operation against St. Nazaire on 28 Mar. 1942".

II. In addition to his battle report of the British surprise attack on St. Nazaire the Commanding Admiral, Western France submitted a supplementary report dated 8 Apr. It should be noted that this report brings out the subsequently established fact that it would have been utterly impossible to tow off in time the destroyer stuck in the flood-gate of the Normandie lock, because the destroyer was completely jammed in and had sunk due to flooding or minor explosions in her stern. Moreover steamers SCHLETTSTADT and PASSAT, which were in dock in the Normandie lock during the attack, suffered only comparatively minor damage, and in the meantime it has been possible to tow them out of the dock, past the sunken destroyer, through the south gate and into the harbor. For copy of report see 1/Skl 8721/42 Gkdos in reference file "British Operation against St. Nazaire, 28 Mar. 1942".

III. At the Fuehrer Conference on 13 Apr. the Commander in Chief, Navy stressed again that it is necessary to promote the construction of submarines as much as possible, and he asked for permission to purchase copper on the black market in France and Belgium. The Fuehrer is in complete agreement with this request and will order an investigation to determine whether copper can still be purchased through the above-mentioned channels. To enable the Navy to submit the pertinent facts in this matter as soon as possible, the Naval Staff has suggested that the Naval Ordnance Division, War Economy Branch take all necessary steps which may aid in locating and securing the material needed for the construction of submarines. The Naval Staff will attempt to make certain quantities of copper available through the Japanese Navy. For copy of this order see 1/Skl I b 9248/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

Situation 23 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

On the basis of statements in the American press of 23 Feb., 30 Mar., and 6 Apr., the Military Attache in Santiago reports that since

30 Dec. 1941 a total of 30 Russian ships have carried American war material to Vladivostok.

During the past week the battleship ALABAMA, 1 cruiser, and 1 submarine cruiser were launched in the New York area. An order has been placed for the construction of a new 6,000 ton cruiser.

The American steel industry has been called upon to supply enough material for the construction of 18 million tons of shipping space by 1944. It is planned to cut the time required to construct Liberty freighters from 7 months to 105 days.

2. Own Situation:

Radiograms 0214 and 1522 informed all ships in foreign waters of the Naval Intelligence inventory of shipping tonnage as of 1 Apr. 1942 and of the failure of the Cripps mission in India. Radiogram 2036 carried information on the positions of the Italian East Africa steamers, and Radiogram 0612 on shipping traffic in the Indian Ocean.

Radiograms 0411, 1811, and 2209 contained information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon air reconnaissance reported a convoy east of the Isle of Wight. The number of vessels involved and their course were not given.

In the evening of 22 Apr. 2 southbound destroyers and 25 PT boats were reported proceeding at medium speed in quadrant BF 3146.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The Italian blockade-runner FUSIJAMA sailed from Ferrol in the evening. The Spanish Navy has sent out a torpedo boat to patrol the waters off Cape Ortegal for her protection. Reconnaissance planes sent out to search for the reported destroyers and the 25 PT boats failed to sight them.

Channel Coast:

Shortly before midnight enemy PT boats made 4 attacks on the convoy escorted by mine-detonating vessel "4". All of these attacks failed thanks to effective defensive fire. British long-range batteries took part in the engagement with well-aimed fire but were unable to score any hits. The convoy arrived in Boulogne unharmed.

Reports of an enemy landing attempt off Luc-sur-Mer (5 kilometers west of the Orne estuary) at midnight proved to be a false alarm. Evidently the engine noises of enemy planes flying overhead after 2250 were misinterpreted.

Special Items:

a. The Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff approves the sug-

gestion of the Admiral, France concerning the organization of naval troops for the defense of the Channel islands off the coast of Western France; see 1/Skl 9771/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. X.

b. The report on the situation of the Commander in Chief, Armed Forces, West, submitted to the Armed Forces High Command 20 Apr., interprets lively enemy air activity in the daytime as an attempt to test German anti-aircraft defenses and to wear out our fighter equipment. Enemy maneuvers in the Exeter area, detected by our radio intelligence, deserve special notice because the 1st Royal Marine Division, which is earmarked for use in the event of an invasion, participated in the maneuvers. The maneuvers are worthy of special attention all the more as for the first time the use of freight-carrying gliders and parachute troops in civilian clothes was simulated and chemical decontamination was practiced.

The opinion of the Commander in Chief, Armed Forces, West concerning the likelihood of British raids on the coast remains entirely unchanged.

Evaluation of aerial photographs indicates that work on British coastal fortifications continues to progress.

Work on German coastal fortifications is making headway as well. Preparations have begun for the occupation of the Channel islands by naval troops. Part of these, however, will have to be drawn from the forces defending the Netherlands and the anti-aircraft personnel for a while from St. Nazaire, thus weakening the forces in those localities. The planned withdrawal of troops from the Netherlands will create a serious crisis in the defensive strength of this part of the coast. The first act of railroad sabotage was committed involving an express train near Caen with serious consequences. For the time being the French population has adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward the new government.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Photographic reconnaissance showed the following ships in Scapa Flow at noon: 1 aircraft carrier of the ILLUSTRIOUS class, 1 battleship of the RODNEY or NELSON class, 1 battleship of the KING GEORGE V class, 1 heavy cruiser probably of the WICHITA class, 4 light cruisers, and 4 destroyers. In the morning air reconnaissance reported 1 northbound convoy of 25 steamers and 3 destroyers off Flamborough Head and in the afternoon one convoy southwest of Devonport on a southwesterly course. No details were given as to the number of ships involved. An agent report mentioned the presence of a southeastbound convoy at the exit of The Wash in the afternoon. No details were given.

Own Situation:

The tanker EUROSEE has broken in two. It may be possible to salvage its bow. A ground mine was swept off Ameland.

Considering the number of vessels in Scapa Flow it would pay to launch another air attack against the heavy ships.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

The interrogation of a deserter, a Russian naval engineer lieutenant of the reserve, resulted among other things in certain information on the movement of convoys to Murmansk. According to his statements 3 British submarines are stationed in Polyarnoye and 1 British monitor in Archangel. The deserter disclaimed any knowledge of Russian mine-laying submarines. (The fact is that Russian mines were found which, judging from their location, could have been laid only by a submarine.) The waters around Kildin to the west of 34° E, are mined 7 miles off the coast and are closed to shipping. Large ships, including convoys, are using the western channel in Kola Bay. Small vessels hug the eastern coast of the bay. Directions on how to enter Kola Bay are transmitted to the convoys by trawlers from the signal station at Navolok lighthouse. Directions on how to enter Murmansk are transmitted by a PT boat which goes out to meet the approaching convoys. 2 artillery battalions with medium light and medium batteries are stationed on the western shore of Kola Bay and the west coast of Kildin. 6 PT boats are stationed at Kildin. 5 or 6 sub-chasers are stationed in Teriberka, where vessels approaching from the east are being piloted in. Underwater listening installations are located off Polyarnoye and in the Tyuva Bay. In addition 5 or 6 PT boats are stationed in Ozerko.

On 23 Apr. air reconnaissance observed the presence of 20 vessels of various sizes in Murmansk and of 2 steamers in Polyarnoye.

Own Situation:

15 miles east of Nordkyn an enemy submarine sank the Norwegian steamer STENSAAS. There were 18 survivors.

The sub-chaser group stationed at Honningsvaag was transferred to Vardoe as early as 22 Apr., due to repeated submarine attacks on convoys off Vardoe.

On 22 Apr., the anti-submarine training group sailed from Trondheim in a southerly direction. 5 boats of the 6th PT Boat Flotilla have arrived in Trondheim.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

A mine-detonating vessel swept 3 ground mines east of Aarhus.

The steamers POTSDAM and GNEISENAU arrived in Stettin.

The first night transport group of operation "Elch" has left Aalborg en route to Oslo.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

There was lively air activity over the rendezvous area. 76 planes were counted.

According to an agent report a convoy is expected to sail from Gibraltar on 26 Apr.

Off the U.S. coast a steamer, probably the Norwegian steamer REINHOLT (7,499 GRT), was fired upon by a submarine and burst into flame. A number of ships were ordered to come to her aid. Other submarine sighting signals originated in the area east of Cape Lookout, and off the Florida coast. 160 miles east of Long Island the British steamer BRADBURNE (4,736 GRT) sent a submarine warning signal.

In the Mediterranean German submarines were reported northeast of Sidi Barrani, 90 miles north of Port Said, and in 32° 07' N and east of 30° E.

2. Own Situation:

The Commanding Admiral, Submarines was informed via Radiogram 1511 that between 1200 on 24 Apr. and 2400 on 1 May submarines will be permitted to attack ships travelling unescorted on route "Anton" north of 38° N and west of 10° W, because during that time no German blockade-runners are expected in that area.

No successes were reported in the Atlantic.

In the Mediterranean submarine U "565" sank a steamer (5,000 GRT) and probably another (4,000 GRT) in quadrant CO 9237.

Due to the fact that another transfer of planes to Malta is being anticipated the German Naval Command, Italy intends to employ 3 submarines (U "74", "573", and "375") in the western part of the Mediterranean.

For supplementary report of submarine warfare see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

According to the Vichy Telegraphic Service the first U.S. bombers, which will operate within the organization of the RAF, have arrived in Great Britain.

Holton Heath was the target of another daylight attack. Other daylight missions were carried out against Exeter and Plymouth. During the night German planes again attacked Exeter, as well as Torquay, their alternate target.

Unfavorable weather prevented photographic reconnaissance of Moray Firth.

During the night of 23 Apr. approximately 35 enemy planes attacked northern Germany. The main target of their attack was Rostock, where minor industrial damage was caused. 1 plane penetrated as far as Oranienburg causing an air raid alarm in Greater Berlin.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

In the afternoon a convoy was attacked off Marsa Matruh. Results were not observed.

Strong forces of the II Air Corps continued their attacks against Valletta and Venezia and Halfar airfields, as well as against anti-aircraft gun positions. Good results were observed. German fighters covered Malta, giving indirect protection to a German convoy.

3. Eastern Front:

The following results of earlier air attacks were observed: In Novorossisk: 1 damaged freighter, 2 steamers in dock, and 3 wrecked vessels.

In Tuapse: 1 warship apparently damaged, 4 wrecked vessels, and 1 beached escort vessel.

7 cutters were attacked off Primorsk Akhtarskaya, in the Sea of Azov. 1 of these was sunk, and 4 or 5 were damaged.

A reconnaissance operation against convoy PQ 15 between Iceland and Jan Mayen brought no results. In Polyarnoye 1 steamer was damaged in an attack.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance reports lively convoy traffic in the Alexandria-Tobruk area.

Submarine sightings were reported off Cape Passara and off Lampedusa.

According to an intelligence report the EAGLE left dock in Gibraltar on 22 Apr.

2. Own Situation:

The Commanding Admiral, German Naval Command, Italy has gone to North Africa for a period of three days where he will confer with General Rommel. (On orders of the Naval Staff in connection with operation "Aida".)

3. Situation Italy:

During the night of 23 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

In the evening of 22 Apr. motorships BERTANI and ALLEGRI left Naples for Tripoli and motorships PISANI and RAVELLI left Tripoli for Naples. The cargo going to Africa includes 170 vehicles and 1,834 tons of equipment for the armed forces.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

The transports are proceeding according to schedule.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance of this area disclosed no new developments. See "Aerial Warfare" for damage observed on vessels in Novorossisk and Tuapse.

Own Situation:

A medium-sized tugboat hit a mine and sank 40 meters from the pier in the coal harbor of Odessa. The spot is inaccessible to mine-sweeping planes.

Transport and convoy service is continuing without incident according to plan.

For reasons of a military, political, and economic nature the Armed Forces High Command is compelled to order the number of German troops in Rumania reduced even further as soon as possible. The transfer of bridge engineer units will be the Navy's job. As of 15 May the maximum figure of German personnel in Rumania will be 3,200 for the Navy, 6,500 for the Army, and 17,000 for the Air Force.

VIII. Situation East Asia

The Australian government announced the loss of the Australian destroyer VAMPIRE in the Gulf of Bengal.

No other reports were received.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

No fighting activity of importance took place. The enemy is digging trenches northeast of Taganrog.

Central Army Group:

Enemy attacks were repulsed near Novosil, near Fomina, and north of Spas-Demensk.

Northern Army Group:

The advancing Zorn and Von Seydlitz groups succeeded in coming within sight of each other. At the defensive front, a German attack aimed at re-establishing the former main battle line has remained unsuccessful so far. South of Maluksa an enemy attack supported by tanks was thrown back.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

In the course of the Russian offensive at the Svir river be-

tween 11 and 21 Apr. during which about 150 attacks were made, the enemy lost about 14,000 men killed, 140 prisoners, as well as much armament and equipment.

In the Loukhi sector at the northeastern front there was lively enemy reconnaissance activity.

3. North Africa:

There was only slight reconnaissance and artillery activity, due to severe sandstorms.

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24 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

Reuter reports that on 22 Apr. the government of South Africa broke off diplomatic relations with France and demanded that all French government officials leave South Africa immediately.

Until now 5 high-ranking officials of the French Embassy in Washington have resigned because they do not want to work under the Laval government.

Great Britain:

In a talk which he gave in New York, Beaverbrook demanded that Great Britain establish a second front in Europe. In addition, everything possible should be done to help Russia, since possibly she will decide the war in 1942. However, the need for ships is more vital than anything else. He warned that lack of shipping space must not be the cause of another crisis, following the crises caused by shortage of planes in 1940 and of tanks in 1941. The sources of raw materials in the Near East must be protected against German and Japanese attacks.

According to a statement by Cripps, it may be anticipated that the government will soon propose in the House of Commons that the proclamation regarding the defense of India remain in force.

In a secret session lasting 4½ hours Churchill made a report to the House of Commons.

Spain:

At an interview given to the press, Foreign Minister Suner emphasized again that Spain is not neutral but rather non-belligerent.

U.S.S.R.:

The Swedish government is supposed to have received for the first time a report by American newspapermen on the existence of German prisoner of war camps in Russia and the conditions in them.

Turkey:

The Russo-Turkish controversy with respect to the trial of Papen's would-be assassin is still very lively. The Turkish Ambassador who left Russia took along all his luggage.

U.S.A.:

Roosevelt's message to Congress aimed at combatting inflation will provide for all measures serving this purpose which have proved their worth in other countries, too. (See Political Review No. 95, Para. 9.)

The Attorney General has rounded up approximately 8,000 foreign seamen who have deserted from their ships. Among them are 3,000 Norwegians and 3,000 Greeks.

In the near future a military mission will be sent to the Belgian Congo for the purpose of studying the possibilities for war in Central Africa.

China:

According to the official German News Agency, General Sun Lian Chen and 25,000 of his men have left Chiang Kai-shek and joined the Nanking government.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff reports that interpretation of the aerial photographs taken of Scapa Flow on 15 Apr. confirms beyond doubt that a ship of the NORTH CAROLINA class was present there because of the three triple turrets appearing on the photographs.

II. As ordered, Group North has informed the Commanding Admiral, Norway that he will be assigned the 7th Mine Sweeper Flotilla. It was added, however, that due to the lack of forces it is possible that neither the planned mining operations nor mine sweeping of the shipping lane to Reval on short notice can be carried out.

The Naval Staff remarked in this connection that the 7th Mine Sweeper Flotilla has only one seaworthy vessel, which is assigned to the Mining and Harbor Defense School. Therefore it does not matter how the flotilla itself is assigned; only the dates when the other boats are to leave the shipyards have a bearing on the above operations. On the other hand Group North had requested a modern mine sweeper flotilla for naval operations planned in the Baltic Sea for 1942. The 3rd Mine Sweeper Flotilla was assigned to it for that purpose.

III. Next the Chief of Operations Branch, Naval Staff speaks on Group North's request of 11 Feb. 1942. It was proposed that midget submarines be built along Japanese lines (construction time: 6 months in Japan), which might be used in Norwegian waters as self-propelled batteries of torpedo tubes, as well as for offensive purposes off the coast of Murmansk, in the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Finland, along the Channel coast and the east coast of the British Isles, in the Black Sea, and in the Mediterranean. The **defensive** effect of such vessels would be of great value.

The Naval Staff agrees that under certain conditions midget submarines could be useful for offensive operations off the British east and Channel coasts although the low speed of the vessels and unfavorable currents hamper their operations. The Italian midget submarines might be considered for this task. The requested report on experience gathered by Japanese midget submarines has not been received as yet. The Naval Staff believes that construction of midget submarines should depend entirely on building facilities and on the raw materials available. Since the Submarine Division of the Naval Staff confirms that midget submarines cannot be built without harming the current submarine construction program, it seems unjustifiable, at least for the time being, to interfere with **our** already reduced mass production of submarines for warfare in the Atlantic. It also seems advisable to wait for the reports on experiences of the Italian midget submarines in the Black Sea.

The Chief, Naval Staff agrees with this viewpoint. Group North will be instructed accordingly.

IV. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division reports on the dates when the PT boats, motor mine sweepers, and submarines are expected to arrive in the Black Sea, also on a request for Siebel ferries in order to

ship heavy tanks and land them on the coast of North Africa. Siebel ferries are required because the landing craft (MFP) are still not large enough for these tanks. (In the new landing craft this difficulty has been eliminated.)

V. The Plans and Schedules Branch of the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division reports on the result of the Hague Conference. This conference had the purpose of settling the question of organizational changes with respect to command authority in coastal defense of the Netherland area. On 13 Apr. the Chief, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division had reported on this question in the Fuehrer's headquarters; at that time the Fuehrer had reserved the right to make a decision. Agreement on the following was reached: Overlapping of jurisdiction by Naval Station North Sea and the Commander in Chief, West for the area of the Commanding Admiral, Netherlands will be eliminated by the fact that the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Netherlands will take over all functions of the Commanding Admiral, Netherlands as established by Fuehrer Directive No. 40. The eastern part of the province Groeningen will come under the jurisdiction of Naval Station, North Sea. While it was originally planned to solve the entire problem by appointing the Admiral, North Sea Station as commander of the Armed Forces for the entire area up to the Issel River as provided in Directive No. 40, it was possible to do without this solution in view of the changed position of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Netherlands. The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division will issue instructions in this connection.

VI. As for the controversy with Reich Minister Speer regarding the cooperation between the Navy and Organization Todt in St. Malo, the Chief, Naval Ordnance Division is given orders to inform Minister Speer personally, at today's conference on other matters, that the Navy has taken every step to eliminate friction. Ministerialdirektor Eckardt was sent to discuss the matter on the spot.

VII. In connection with the brief report of Group North on operation "Cerberus" the Commanding Admiral, Battleships submitted several brief comments to Group North, with copies to Naval Staff, Group West, the Fleet, and the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North. Group North criticizes to the same offices the way in which the Commanding Admiral, Battleships proceeded, and requests that the Fleet Command see that in the future such comments are made in the form of reports according to regulations and are sent through proper channels.

It will not be necessary for the Naval Staff or the Chief, Naval Staff to make any comment in this matter.

VIII. The Naval Staff, Construction Division reports that it will be possible to build 6 small war transport ships in the Danube shipyards in Hungary. Thus a total of 34 such vessels will be built (22 in Italy, 7 in Vienna, and 5 in Budapest).

Situation 24 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an Italian report a British naval officer has

arrived in Ponta Delgada to act as assistant to the British consul there.

South Atlantic:

The Argentine government states that repairs to foreign vessels in Argentine ports are dependent on the approval of the Ministry of the Navy and on replacement within 6 months of the material required for repairs.

According to agent report from Montevideo the Russian icebreaker MIKOYAN left Chile on 19 Apr., supposedly bound for Vladivostok. This auxiliary vessel of the Red Fleet is armed with two 10 cm. guns and with anti-aircraft guns. Damage caused by several shell hits was repaired in Montevideo. It is said that the vessel sailed from Vladivostok via Capetown to Montevideo on a long cruise.

Indian Ocean:

According to radio monitoring, 13 British warships arrived in Bombay on 13 Apr; one of them had been cruising in the area of Freetown in February, another had been in Australian waters.

2. Own Situation:

Report of the Naval Staff, Operations Division concerning the success of the first mining operation carried out by DOGGERBANK off Capetown in the middle of March as per 1/Skl I E 9672/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. I.

Radiogram 1859 informed TANNENFELS of the Japanese Navy's instructions to sail east of Billiton Island, because of a mine field between Bangka and Billiton.

Letter 1818 was sent to the Naval Attache in Tokyo informing him that the TANNENFELS has been informed of the above Japanese instructions.

Radiogram 1143 was broadcast to the PORTLAND instructing her not to sail north of the latitude of point "Pappelschwaermer" until after 2400 on 2 May.

Radiograms 0907 and 2057 were sent to the DRESDEN and to all ships in foreign waters that from 24 Apr. until 1 May submarines may attack unescorted ships.

All vessels in foreign waters were informed by Radiogram 1751 of enemy ship routes and ship movements as ascertained from decoded radio messages.

The Japanese Navy appreciates information of this kind because it has proved valuable for their operations.

Radiogram 2001 gives additional information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring located a British vessel 350 miles west of Brest.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

In connection with the organization of the naval troops which are to occupy the islands off the western coast of France as approved by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, the Commanding General of the 7th Army made the following request: He asked through the Commander in Chief, West that an additional rifle company be set up for each naval artillery detachment, with the exception of Naval Artillery Detachment 685 intended for the Ile d'Yeu.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division will attend to the matter.

Channel Coast:

Group West submitted a supplementary report on the encounter of the 2nd Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla, the 8th Mine Sweeper Flotilla, and mine detonating vessel "4" with light enemy naval forces during the night of 21 Apr. This report emphasizes how exceptionally well the attacked convoy and its escort vessels defended themselves. For copy see Telegram 2153.

In connection with the entry of 11 Apr. 1942 in the War Diary of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North, Group North was asked to submit an explanation as to why the Brest Group failed to follow the route in the vicinity of the West Frisian Islands which deviated from route "Braun", as suggested by the Commanding Admiral, Defenses North and as originally intended. For copy of order see 1/Skl I E 9509/42 Gkdos. in files "Cerberus".

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Another light cruiser has been identified at Scapa Flow in addition to those located by photographic reconnaissance on 23 Apr.

Own Situation:

In the afternoon 30 enemy planes attacked Flushing from a very great height. The shipyard and the harbor are undamaged, but in the city there was considerable damage.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

At noon there were 11 steamers in the bend of the Kola estuary. In the afternoon 2 patrol boats and 3 motor mine sweepers were lying to

off Murmansk.

Own Situation:

Fleet tender HELA with the Fleet Commander and gunboat "1" arrived in Oslo.

On 23 Apr. 2 enemy motor boats dropped depth charges on a German submarine 12 miles south of Vardoe.

3 torpedoes were fired at sub-chaser "1110" while she was on escort duty. A sub-chase brought no results.

During the past few days lively enemy air activity was reported in the vicinity of the north and west coasts. German escort forces and steamers were repeatedly bombed and machine-gunned. Kirkenes was also attacked. Nowhere was the damage severe.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

Ground mines were swept off Buelk, Schleimuende, and Heile as well as in the Little Belt. Kalundborg ferry hit a mine and was beached south of Kalundborg harbor.

In the area of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic Sea escort and sweeping operations proceeded according to schedule.

During the night of 24 Apr. Rostock was again attacked from the air. Attacks on Kiel were effectively repulsed by a curtain of fire. No detailed reports have been received as yet.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

While engaged in very lively reconnaissance activity the 15th and the 19th Air Force Groups intercepted 83 planes.

Several submarine sighting reports were intercepted from the vicinity of Nantucket Island off the U.S. coast.

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "84" sank a steamer of 4,000 GRT in the waters off Cape Hatteras.

In quadrant BE 7317 submarine U "553" made contact with a convoy consisting of about 12 ships accompanied by 2 destroyers. However the boat was instructed not to attack but to proceed on her route, since for the time being any attack against convoys is to be avoided in this area because it is believed that submarine traps are operating in these waters.

No reports were received from the West Indies and from the submarines operating in the South.

See supplementary report on submarine warfare for ideas expressed

by the German Naval Command, Italy on how to combat the transfer of planes from Gibraltar to Malta, and on tactical instructions for the 3 submarines engaged in this task in the western part of the Mediterranean. The Naval Staff's evaluation of the situation with respect to submarine operations against PQ convoy traffic is included. (See War Diary of 22 Apr., Situation Norway.) The evaluation is sent to Group North. Copy as per 1/Skl I u 818/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

Supplementary report on the situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV; with the opinion of the Naval Staff in detail with regard to the activities of the 2 boats in the Arctic Ocean.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

11 Spitfires were shot down while flying over the Channel area. In the course of daylight attacks fighter bombers severely damaged industrial installations near Brighton, in Howe, and in Hastings. Air reconnaissance located lively convoy activity off the east coast. Air Force listening service located 2 convoys in the Thames River. 44 German planes raided Exeter again during the night.

During the night of 24 Apr. 50 enemy planes flew over the coastal area of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, concentrating their attack on Rostock.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

During the night of 23 Apr. nuisance raids were carried out against the airfields on Malta. On 24 Apr. all dive bomber, bomber, and fighter formations attacked Valletta and the airfields in 4 waves; satisfactory results were observed.

3. Eastern Front:

In the Black Sea 26 planes attacked Novorossisk on 23 Apr.; 1 steamer of 1,500 GRT was probably sunk, and 2 steamers of 5,000 and 3,000 GRT were damaged. During the night of 23 Apr. 1 tanker was bombed and caught fire in Novorossisk, and 7 planes mined the harbor of Kerch. On 24 Apr. the air raid against Novorossisk was repeated, and the seaplane base at Sevastopol was attacked. According to reports both raids were successful.

In the Gulf of Finland our planes made heavy attacks on shipping targets in Leningrad harbor on 24 Apr; the MAKSIM GORKI received several hits amidships causing severe damage. The battleship OKTYABRSKAYA REVOLUTSIYA was hit by 3 heavy bombs.

The weather kept 17 Ju "87's" from carrying out their mission against shipping targets in Murmansk in the Arctic Ocean. Instead they dropped 67 bombs on the Rosta shipyard north of Murmansk. It was not possible to observe the result. In an engagement with 20 Hurricanes, none of our own planes were lost, while 3 enemy planes were shot down.

Special Items:

A conference was held at the Technical Office of the German Air Force on the subject of the misgivings which were mentioned in a letter of the Naval Construction Division of the Naval High Command

regarding the use of the 2 carrier plane models made available by the Air Force for the GRAF ZEPPELIN. According to the report of the Naval Air Section of the Naval Staff, Operations Division, far-reaching improvements have been made in the planes, so that it is expected that the main requirement of the Naval Staff can be fulfilled. The Air Force believes that it will be possible to reduce greatly the time needed for completing the planes. It is estimated that it will take a year until the first model can be produced. The Air Force believes that the suggested procedure will provide the Navy in the shortest time possible with tested planes ready for combat, which for years to come will be superior to those of the enemy, while necessitating the least change in flight installations on the carrier.

For copy of the conference minutes see 1/Skl I L 9361/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

The situation in the western and central part of the Mediterranean remains unchanged. The Italian Navy reports that during the air attack on 1 Apr. 2 submarines received a direct hit and sank in Valletta. One of the vessels was identified as "P 36". Another submarine is said to have been damaged in an air attack on 21 Mar.

In the eastern part of the Mediterranean air reconnaissance again located the convoy reported on 23 Apr.; it was proceeding west 40 miles off Tobruk under heavy fighter escort. In the morning of 23 Apr. photographic reconnaissance revealed the following vessels in Port Said harbor: 2 submarines, one of which was in dock, 1 destroyer, 6 small war vessels, 35 steamers with a total of approximately 170,000 GRT, and 2 tankers and 2 passenger ships amounting to about 24,000 GRT.

2. Situation Italy:

The enemy attacked Benghazi on 23 Apr., damaging warehouses containing clothes and equipment. According to an Italian report, the Italian submarine ARADAM on returning to her base disclosed that she had sunk the British destroyer HAVOC during the night of 5 Apr. According to statements made by British prisoners of war the destroyer ran aground and was blown up by her crew after an Italian submarine had attacked her unsuccessfully. (See War Diary 7 Apr.)

The Naval Attache in Rome reports on the viewpoint held by Admiral Riccardi concerning the operation against Malta. The Admiral believes this operation essential to our holding the Suez area. The operation against Malta is planned for the beginning of August. Until that time the 2nd Air Force will have to hold the island in check effectively. Report as per 1/Skl 805/42 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIII.

The Naval Attache has informed the Armed Forces High Command.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The steamer UNA which had run aground off Benghazi on 20 Apr. floated off and has arrived in Benghazi. Motorships ALLEGRI and BERTANI, tanker ENIO, and steamer TRIPOLINO arrived in Tripoli, motorships PISANI and RAVELLO arrived in Naples, all according to schedule. There is

nothing to report concerning coastal supply traffic in Libya.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Nothing to report.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Radio monitoring located a number of submarines in the western part of the Black Sea.

Own Situation:

Enemy planes attacked Eupatoria on 23 Apr. There is nothing to report concerning mine-sweeping, convoy, and transport operations, which proceeded according to schedule.

Group South requested that the Commander in Chief, Air be induced to refrain from reducing the anti-aircraft armament granted to Constanta. If it is planned to withdraw anti-aircraft artillery from Varna and part of the anti-aircraft artillery from Constanta, it must also be anticipated that the anti-aircraft guns aboard the supply ships will be removed. Therefore Group South requests in addition that the Naval Anti-Aircraft Company Black Sea be organized and sent as fast as possible.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division will attend to the matter.

VIII. Situation East Asia

Nothing to report.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

There was artillery and scouting activity in the southern sector. Near Losovaya and Likhachevo the enemy launched a few minor attacks by assault detachments, which were repulsed.

Central Army Group:

In the sector of the 4th Army, enemy units advancing from the direction of Preobrazhensk succeeded in penetrating the German lines from the north. An enemy attack northwest of Yukhnov was repulsed. In the northern flank of the 9th Army an enemy attack collapsed south of Byelci.

Northern Army Group:

Enemy attacks against the supply road of the Eicke Group north of Omichkino and against the western front of the Wuennenberg Group near Yamno were repulsed. Enemy thrusts against the Volkhov front south of

Soltsy and an enemy advance south of Maluksa were thrown back. It is anticipated that the enemy will resume strong attacks at the Volkhov front. German heavy artillery shelled industrial targets and barracks in Kronstadt.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

At the Kandalaksha front a German reconnaissance mission was successful. At the Litsa front several enemy attacks in battalion strength at the southern flank were repulsed; 2 enemy attacks by assault detachments against the center of that front were also repulsed.

3. North Africa:

The day passed quietly.

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25 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

Diplomatic circles confirm reports that the U.S. is constructing a road connecting Cameroons with Egypt. Four United States consulates will be established in Cameroon.

Great Britain:

According to information from diplomatic circles the Governor of Gibraltar who, besides, has a very skeptical attitude toward Russia, expressed less confidence in victory than in the past. "In view of the tendency toward totalitarian bolshevism you hardly know whether you should welcome a German or a British victory!" He said that Great Britain's only chance lies in Russia's being weakened in 1942 to such an extent that the Anglo-American Expeditionary Force will be able to carry out the reorganization of Europe without having to consider present agreements with Russia.

> This, however, is probably a type of wishful thinking which is widespread among conservative British circles, and also in the U.S.

Canada:

On 28 Apr. Prime Minister King will make a declaration concerning French-Canadian relations.

South Africa:

In connection with the break in diplomatic relations with France, Smuts declared in Parliament that the Union of South Africa does not intend to occupy Madagascar, but will not permit the enemy to use it as a base.

Portugal:

According to rumors, Japan has carried out an operation on Macao, in an attempt to combat Anglo-American espionage, withdrawing when the mission was completed.

Sweden:

Reuter and the Swedish press comment on a Swedish note of protest concerning the secret arming of the Norwegian steamers in Goeteborg. The Swedish press criticizes this breach of confidence on the part of members of the British Embassy and the British Consulate.

U.S.S.R.:

According to Domei, Russian authorities have lifted restrictions for the travel of Japanese citizens via the trans-Siberian railroad. A large number of Japanese diplomats and private citizens are already using this route to return home from Europe.

Iran:

The fighting between Iranian forces and bolshevik Kurdish troops is turning out in favor of the Kurds.

U.S.A.:

For attempts to combat the stealthy communist influence in the U.S., see Political Review No. 96, Paragraph 9.

According to the official German news agency (DNB), the U.S. has enlarged considerably her plane service to South America.

Japan:

According to the Embassy the Japanese Government plans to ease the travel regulations for German citizens, who up to now, along with other foreigners, have been forbidden to travel, by issuing them permits good for 3 months for trips between the adjoining cities Tokyo and Yokohama, or between Kobe and Osaka.

> This Japanese attitude toward German citizens is inexplicable and is in harsh contrast to the friendly treatment enjoyed by Japanese citizens in Germany.

Situation 25 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

According to agent report U.S. planes are now based on Fernando Noronha. Italian information has it that the Italian steamer DUCHESSA D'AOSTA, which De Gaulle forces captured off Fernando Po on 14 Jan., is now serving as a troop transport between Capetown and Egyptian ports.

2. Own Situation:

The Italian Navy discloses that the Italian East Africa steamers will arrive at Berbera instead of Jibuti where they will be supplied by a British tanker.

The Naval Attache in Tokyo sent a report concerning the departure of a Japanese submarine bound for western France, including the instructions given to the submarine with respect to radio communications and recognition signals, as well as the cargo. For copy see 1/Skl 8905/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XV.

Radiograms 0540, 1011, and 1841 were sent with information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance sighted 5 merchant ships of 1,000 to 10,000 GRT in The Solent, 5 merchant ships in Cowes, 5 PT boats in Cowes Bay, 4 steamers and several patrol boats between Wight and Southampton, 1 heavy warship, 2 medium-sized vessels, and 7 PT boats west of Portland.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

In the evening of 24 Apr. the Italian blockade-runner FUSIJAMA was met by a German escort and anchored in the evening of 25 Apr. at the Verdon roadstead. The cargo for Germany aboard the vessel includes: 3,256 tons of whale oil, 2,000 tons of rubber, 114 tons of tungsten ore, 50 tons of tin ore, 1,000 metric tons (Raumtonnen) of copra, and 103 freight tons (Masstonnen) of coconut oil.

This means another valuable contribution to Germany's war economy.

24 mines have been swept off the Atlantic coast. (See Telegram 0720 of 26 Apr.)

Channel Coast:

Nothing to report.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Normal convoy traffic was observed along the east coast. During the day there was little reconnaissance activity; during the night it increased somewhat.

Own Situation:

The EUROSEE and her tug are en route to the Jade. Mine-detonating vessel "17" hit 2 ground mines off Borkum suffering considerable damage. Mine sweeper M "1304" swept a third ground mine in the same area.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance searching for convoy PQ 15 brought no results. Photographic reconnaissance of 24 Apr. in the Murmansk area revealed several demolished sheds in the Rosta shipyard, 1 cruiser in dock, 1 destroyer in the harbor, 1 destroyer at anchor in the Kola bend, and 28 steamers totalling 90,000 GRT between Murmansk and Kulonga. On 25 Apr. **one sunken merchant ship was sighted off Kola Bay.**

Own Situation:

At 2350 on 24 Apr., in spite of the fog, heavy guns on Rybachi Peninsula fired without results on a convoy making for Petsamo.

4 northbound vessels of the 6th PT Boat Flotilla have left Trondheim. On 24 and 25 Apr. enemy planes were active over Kirkenes, Petsamo, Trondheim, Stavanger, and Lister. No damage was reported.

For the protection of the big ships, Group North requests that the

Commander in Chief, Air be asked to reinforce the fighter forces which were weakened by the transfer of planes from Trondheim to Petsamo. (See Telegram 1907.)

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

For an account of the heavy bomb damage which occurred in Rostock during the night of 24 Apr. see Telegram 0732.

> There is no doubt that the constant air attacks against Rostock are not only directed against the Heinkel factories but are in reality intended as special support of Russia by making the Baltic Sea ports unfit for supply transports to the East. Other Baltic Sea ports may be threatened in a similar way, among them Flensburg, Wismar, Swinemuende, Stettin, Gdynia, and Danzig. Plans must be made to reinforce the defenses accordingly.

Mining operation "Kassel" (in the Skagerrak) to be carried out by mine sweeper ROLAND is planned for the night of 25 Apr.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

From a position 47° 20' N and west of 15° W, a plane reported a possible depth charge hit on a submarine. At noon a British vessel was detected off Porcupine Bank; another was located at midnight at the same place.

Submarine sighting reports from off the U.S. coast were intercepted; submarines were reported 130 miles south of Halifax, 70 miles southeast of New York, near Cape Hatteras, and near Cape Lookout.

In the Mediterranean a submarine sighting signal was sent from the vicinity of Cyprus.

2. Own Situation:

No reports of successes.

Orders were sent to submarines in the western part of the Mediterranean to cease attacks against merchant ships, so as to guarantee success when making surprise attacks on their main targets, warships.

Group North agrees in principle with the viewpoint of the Naval Staff that German forces should be concentrated in the vicinity of Jan Mayen to combat PQ convoys. On the other hand Group North feels that the time is too short for this plan to be effective against PQ 15, and will therefore keep the forces in 2 groups for this task, as in the past, 1 group deployed off Jan Mayen and the other in the Bear Island defile. For the plan concerning the transfer of the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean into the area Narvik-Harstad-Tromsoe, as well as the viewpoint taken by the Naval Staff with respect to the reported plans, see supplementary Submarine Situation, War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

For the general operational order issued by Group North concerning operations of the submarines under Group North against ships carrying supplies to Russia see 1/Skl 9818/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

The Commanding Admiral, **Group North and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines** have agreed to organize an Arctic Ocean submarine flotilla as of 15 May under the command of Lieutenant Herbert Schultze. (See Telegram 1745.)

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

In the course of concentrated enemy day light flights, German fighter planes shot down 16 Spitfires for certain, and probably 5 more. German anti-aircraft guns shot down 2 additional planes. German armed reconnaissance planes sank 2 small steamers in Cowes harbor. During the night German planes looking for shipping targets off the east coast of Scotland were unable to locate them, and attacked instead the harbor installations of Aberdeen. Strong forces of the 3rd Air Force made a retaliatory raid against the city of Bath. During the night of 25 Apr. 54 to 60 enemy planes flew over the North-German coastal area again, repeating heavy attacks against Rostock. Reports as to damage have not been received as yet. A small number of enemy planes dropped high-explosive bombs on targets along the coast in the occupied territories in the West.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The offensive against Malta is continuing.

3. Eastern Front:

During the night of 25 Apr. mines were laid in Kamish Burun waters. On 25 Apr. 10 Ju 88's attacked ships and harbor installations in Murmansk.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 24 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi. No damage was reported.

An Armed Forces High Command directive states that within the jurisdiction of the German Armed Forces it is the task of the Air Force to gather all enemy information in connection with operation "Herkules" which is planned and directed by the Italian Armed Forces High Command, and to pass this information on to the agencies concerned by way of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, South and the Italian High Command.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The transport of supplies to Tripoli and Benghazi as well as

coastal supply transports proceeded without incidents according to plan.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

9 of the 23 "Wannsee" boats in Salonika have capsized and sunk. In any case these boats are suited only for use in the immediate harbor area.

The Turkish mail boat KELMAR with women and children aboard attempted to land at Chios but were prevented by the German naval office there, because no announcement had been received concerning this vessel.

Greek and Adriatic transports proceeded without incidents as planned.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

Own Situation:

Mine-sweeping, transport, and escort operations proceeded as planned. Mining operations had to be put off because the lack of railroad cars delayed the shipment of mines from Genichesk. The departure of submarine DELFINUL will be postponed to about 10 May.

VIII. Situation East Asia:

Nothing to report.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Along this front there was only scout troop and artillery activity, with the exception of the northern flank of the Army Group, where German artillery smashed enemy preparations near Livny. The roads in general are in fair condition; the water level of the Donets River is back to normal.

Central Army Group:

In the Kirov area and north of the Gzhatsk-Mozhaisk highway the enemy appears to be making preparations for new attacks. In the Rzhev area a German advance and a German attack westward were successful. The roads are still covered with mud. From time to time Velish was under heavy enemy artillery fire.

Northern Army Group:

The Eicke and the Von Seydlitz groups have taken the northern

and the southern parts of Ramushevo and are supporting each other. According to prisoner statements the commander in chief of the enemy's northwestern front has taken personal command of the offensive in this area. North of Lake Ilmen, also, heavy enemy artillery fire and a concentration of enemy tanks with heavy guns in front of the main battle line indicate a renewal of attacks.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

The Svir area has been mopped up completely and is clear of enemy troops. In the Loukhi sector attacks involving about 6 Russian battalions were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

3. North Africa:

Along the entire front there was lively enemy artillery and scouting troop activity. In the area east and southeast of Segnali South a German-Italian battle group gained ground after repulsing enemy reconnaissance forces.

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26 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

Reuter reports that American troops have landed on New Caledonia in the Southwest Pacific with the approval of the De Gaulle administration there. The Vichy government has filed a note of protest in Washington.

The French General Giraud, a close friend of De Gaulle, escaped German captivity as a prisoner of war and has fled to Switzerland.

New Zealand:

The U.S. Ambassador has given his assurance that American aid for New Zealand is on the way. He said that this island represents the last remaining bulwark for the supply lines between the United States and Australia.

> Both New Zealand and Caledonia are important bases for the American route which permits support of Australian defenses. The United States is making methodic use of this run for shipping troops and arms in order to halt the Japanese advance toward the south.

Great Britain:

Lord Beaverbrook is asking the heads of American newspapers to cooperate in suppressing rumors to the effect that Churchill will be overthrown by the end of the summer. He said that the British would not be so stupid as to get rid of a man who is the personification of the British character.

According to Shaw it is not at all impossible that the British Empire may crumble. For his frank statements concerning the future of the British Empire see Political Review No. 97, Paragraph 2.

India:

Nehru declared that for the time being no further move will be made with relation to the British government. He said that Cripps is very much mistaken if he believes that his visit has improved the situation in India.

Sweden:

The Swedish Press continues its sharp criticism of the British diplomats in Goeteborg who had a part in smuggling arms aboard the Norwegian vessels.

Portugal:

The German Embassy is under the impression that the circles close to President Carmona are filled with anxiety over the future of their country. They believe that sooner or later Anglo-American forces are going to land in Portugal to attack France by way of Spain. It is reported that American gold is being spent freely in Portugal.

Situation 26 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Radiograms 1155 and 1307 were broadcast to all concerned in foreign waters with information concerning the position of the Italian East Africa steamers, group "Beta", as of 25 Apr.; the departure of the CABO DE BUENA ESPERANZA, a steamer for diplomats which left Rio on 14 Apr. bound for Lisbon; and finally concerning the change in ports of destination for the Italian East Africa ships.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to the Military Attache in Lisbon, one of the chiefs of the British Secret Service told the Portuguese Police that Anglo-American troops in the British Isles now number more than 2,000,000. Landings are being planned for 3 French coastal sectors in Normandy and in the vicinity of Bordeaux. The Portuguese police believe that the figure concerning troops in the British Isles may be correct, in view of reports from shipping circles and in consideration of the arrival of Canadian troops during the past 5 months. Portuguese police officials also reveal that the British are increasing their pressure on the Portuguese government to turn the Azores over to Great Britain. It is feared that the Anglo-Americans will seize the islands before long, since the government persists in turning down this demand.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Motor ship FUSIJAMA has arrived in Bordeaux.

Channel Coast:

In the morning 2 Spitfires attacked and slightly damaged a harbor patrol boat. It is believed that one of the planes was shot down.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

During the night of 25 Apr. numerous planes crossed to the east between Sylt and Esbjerg dropping a few bombs. At noon air reconnaissance observed a convoy of 6 steamers (3,000 to 8,000 GRT) with 1 aircraft carrier and 3 destroyers steering a 330° course in the center

of quadrant AL 31. These could be the British ships for convoy PQ 15, or they may be convoy PQ 16.

Off the east coast lively traffic of large convoys was observed.

Own Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

According to radio monitoring the lively radio activity in the early morning indicates the departure of a convoy from Murmansk.

Own Situation:

At 0330 a submarine alarm was given north of Vardoe, whereupon 2 subchasers went into action. Mine layer ULM and 4 mine sweepers laid an anti-submarine barrage off Trondheim according to plan. For report see 1/Skl 9901/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

Transport and convoy service is proceeding as planned.

On 25 and 26 Apr. enemy planes were located over Kirkenes, Trondheim, Stavanger, Lister, and over Karm Sound. In the afternoon a reconnaissance plane covered Aasen Fjord.

Upon receipt of the telegram from Group North (see War Diary 25 Apr.) the Naval Staff requested that the Operations Staff of the Commander in Chief, Air reinforce as soon as possible the fighter forces in Trondheim to guarantee the protection of the ships in that harbor.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

During the night of 25 Apr. mining operation "Kassel" was carried out according to plan.

An aerial mine was swept in the Little Belt.

Convoy and escort service is proceeding according to plan.

The enemy air attack against Rostock during the night of 25 Apr. resulted in considerable damage in the city. The Heinkel plant reports a 10% cut in production. For details see Telegrams 0738 and 2021.

In view of the fact that the SCHLESIEN and the EMDEN were ordered to remain in training service, Group North informs the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division that an operation of short duration in the Belt and the Sound is not feasible because of the distance from the training area in the east and the difficulty of getting icebreakers. At the same time Group North agrees with the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division that in any case such an operation will probably not be necessary. (See Telegram 1300.)

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Exceptionally lively reconnaissance activity in the rendezvous area.

Submarine sighting reports from the American coast were intercepted from east of Boston, about 60 miles south of New York, and northeast of Cape Lookout.

2. Own Situation:

Submarine U "136" reported from the vicinity of Cape Hatteras that she sank a very large and modern steamer, the "EMPIRE.....". There is no doubt that the bright moonlit nights are the explanation for the decrease in submarine successes along the American coast. 13 large and 18 medium-sized submarines are en route to the American coast.

Submarine U "130" reports little shipping traffic in the West Indies area.

Submarine U "561" succeeded in sinking her fourth sailing vessel.

For supplementary Submarine Situation report see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

8 enemy planes were shot down in the course of enemy daylight flights. Fighter bombers successfully attacked a troop camp northwest of Dungeness and a factory northwest of Deal. German planes sank an enemy patrol boat in the center of quadrant AE 87. During the night 83 German planes attacked Bath.

Enemy planes again attacked the Schleswig-Holstein-Pomerania area, concentrating on Rostock. 30 planes were reported over this area. So far no information has been received as to the damage caused by this (the fourth) attack on Rostock. 35 enemy planes were reported over Belgium and northern France, 18 over western France, 10 over Norway, and 4 over the Netherlands.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The attacks against Malta are being continued. 8 He 111's took off for a mission against the area of the large Bitter Lake. So far no report has been received concerning the result of this mission.

3. Eastern Front:

12 Ju 87's attacked the harbor and the quay installations of Murmansk. The escorting planes shot down 9 Hurricanes.

For reconnaissance flights to determine ice conditions in the Gulf of Finland and the Arctic Ocean see daily situation report.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

The RENOWN has docked in Gibraltar. Reports of sighting submarines came from so thwest of Genoa and northwest of Durazzo. No shipping traffic was obs rved between Alexandria and Derna.

2. Own Situation:

During the night of 25 Apr. the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla carried out a mining operation off Malta as planned. It is planned to lay mines again the following night.

3. Situation Italy:

In the course of the enemy air attack against Benghazi during the night of 25 Apr. 1 out of 8 attacking planes was shot down. A second one was probably shot down.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The following vessels are at sea carrying supplies to North Africa: Steamers MONREALE and UNIONE, and tankers SATURNO and PROSERPINA are bound for Tripoli; steamers PETRARCA and SAVONA are bound for Benghazi.

According to a report from an Italian destroyer, British bombers attacked a convoy 140 miles north-northwest of Benghazi. The PETRARCA and the SAVONA are presumably the ships in question. Nothing else was reported. Coastal supply traffic according to schedule. One landing craft was driven ashore south of Benghazi.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

En route to Patras the steamer IVOREA ran aground in the channel of Preveza. Otherwise transport traffic proceeded without incident.

Group South has requested that the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast determine the priority of the German transports to Crete, and the priority of the expected Italian request, because the "Siena" squadron is to be ordered to operate with the reinforced Italian transports to Crete, contrary to former plans. This would result in new difficulties for present German transport tasks which have not yet been carried out.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

For results of photographic evaluation of Novorossisk see Telegram 1230.

Own Situation:

On 22,23, and 24 Apr. enemy planes attacked Mariupol. The Navy did not suffer either casualties or material damage. On 24 Apr. enemy planes attacked Genichesk. The Army is making available 400 Ukrainian volunteers for the protection of each of the batteries along

the northern coast of the Sea of Azov. The Army reports that during the night of 25 Apr. Russian troops in 10 cutters made a landing on Biryuch Island east of Genichesk.

Convoys and escort service are proceeding according to plan without interruption.

VIII. Situation East Asia

Nothing to report.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

In the Crimea enemy offensive activity is becoming more lively. According to the Army 4 medium-sized warships and a steamer (6,000 to 8,000 GRT) landed in Sevastopol. German assault troops sent into action against the Russians who landed on Biryuch Island failed to contact the enemy; it may be possible that the reported landing was broken off.

In the sectors of the Von Kleist army group and the 6th Army there was lively assault troop activity on both sides.

Central Army Group:

In the sector of the 4th Army enemy attacks were repulsed against the highway near Fomina, as well as north-northwest of Gzhatsk. German artillery opened fire on the enemy who attempted to cross the Ugra by boat at the southern flank of the 4th Panzer Army. Northwest of Rzhev enemy traffic across the Volga bridge was interrupted by a direct artillery hit. Supported by tanks, approximately 1,200 enemy troops penetrated into the northern part of Byeloi. They were repulsed with the aid of dive bombers. The railroad lines Nevel-Velikie Luki and Novosokolniki-Velikie Luki, as well as the telephone connection Nevel-Velikie Luki, were cut by partisans in various places. The terrain is drying out more and more.

Northern Army Group:

There is much enemy activity on the northern part of the Demyansk front. The Eicke and the Von Seydlitz groups are involved in heavy fighting which is still continuing. North of Lake Ilmen and at the point of penetration south of Maluksa enemy preparations were smashed, partly by dive bombers. An enemy shock troop attack against the bridgehead position south of Schluesselburg was unsuccessful.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

In the Loukhi sector the enemy continued his attacks, supported by tanks, with heavy losses. During the night reconnaissance thrusts along the Murmansk front were repulsed. Deserters stated that renewed strong attacks will be carried out simultaneously against the northern and the southern flanks of the Litsa front.

3. North Africa:

There was lively enemy reconnaissance activity along the entire front. At noon the enemy aimed harassing artillery fire against German strong points.

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27 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

According to Portuguese fliers returning from a visit with branches of the British armed forces, the cleft between the conservatives and left-wing radical circles is growing from day to day. The naval officers are the group most opposed to the new Russian-influenced form of society demanded by the socialists. The officer corps feels genuine hatred towards the Japanese, but this is not the case with regard to Germany. The British do not trust France, and relations between British and American officers have improved lately. The belief in total victory has been replaced by the desire for a compromise, under which Great Britain would still be able to do well enough. Confidence in American support has definitely declined, and Great Britain is looking toward Russia instead.

This particular observation is rather odd, and can hardly represent the general opinion.

The viewpoints given by the Portuguese fliers with respect to Churchill's popularity, the enemy's morale, and the emphasis on the common interest shared by the peoples of the White race against the Yellow Danger are identical with those expressed by the prisoners of war taken at St. Nazaire.

Production Minister Lyttleton expressed the opinion that Great Britain needs more socialism and more government leadership. He said the balance must be furthered between the organized power of the state and the driving force of the free individual personality.

Argentina:

According to the Transocean News Service the radicals and socialists in the Chamber of Deputies joined in opposition, with 82 votes as against 76 votes of the government party, and won their first victory by re-electing the president of the Chamber of Deputies. It is to be expected that the opposition will also attempt to get Taborda's motion passed which aims at breaking off diplomatic relations with the Axis Powers. In the Senate the government majority is undisputed.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff

I. The Commander in Chief, Air pointed out to the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff and the Commander in Chief, Navy that the air defense of Stralsund is a naval responsibility. The Chief of Staff, Naval Staff has corrected this erroneous conception, which may have arisen because of the declaration that in general the islands, including the bridges leading to them, are under naval jurisdiction.

Baltic Sea ports are under great danger of air attacks. The 7.5 cm. anti-aircraft guns in Kiel are to be transferred to Flensburg to reinforce that city, as soon as the 10.5 cm. batteries intended for Kiel have arrived there. A withdrawal of anti-aircraft guns from Gdynia is entirely out of the question.

II. The Chief, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division reports:

a. The dates set for the completion of the war transport ships under construction in Italy will be delayed by 2 or 3 months until September 1942 to January 1943.

b. When the GNEISENAU docks in Gdynia this dock will be occupied for about a year. In the middle of June, as soon as the SCHARNHORST undocks in Kiel, the dock there will be needed for construction work on the GRAF ZEPPELIN. For the duration of this work, estimated to require 4 to 5 months, no other large dock will be available in the Baltic Sea. Because of this fact, and for the purpose of removing the floating dock in Wilhelmshaven from an area where the danger of air attacks is very acute, the Chief, Naval Staff orders an examination as to whether or not it can be transferred to the Baltic Sea (Gdynia). The dock, which can be dismantled, was moved through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal when it was taken to the North Sea. If this plan were carried out the only docking facilities for large ships remaining in the North Sea would be those at Hamburg. It is estimated that it will take 3½ months to construct a new stern for the PRINZ EUGEN, with work starting in the beginning of May, as compared with the estimate of 10 to 12 weeks made by the Naval Construction Division.

c. Re-examination of the problem of shipping heavy tanks reveals that this may be accomplished after all with available landing craft. The required width can be attained if the counterweight is eliminated which serves as a balance in heaving the rolling bridge..

III. The Chief, Naval Intelligence Division reports:

a. The Chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Cunningham, is being replaced by Admiral Harwood, Commander of HMS EXETER of the SPEE engagement. This may mean that enemy action has reduced British naval forces in the Mediterranean.

b. Ambassador Alfieri reported to Rome that the German government intends to limit Japanese citizens in their freedom of movement inside Germany as a reprisal to similar treatment accorded to German citizens in Japan.

c. Feller, the United States official, complained to Washington that his reports are not kept from British ears as carefully as they should be!

d. The new Japanese Ambassador in Kuybishev reported that the situation in Russia is exceptionally unfavorable.

The Naval Attache in Istanbul, present at the conference of the Chief, Naval Staff, reveals that the Turkish Ambassador returning from Russia has turned in a similar report.

IV. The Chief, Naval Staff, Operations Branch reports as follows:

a. The 5th Air Force plans to employ stronger bomber formations against Reykjavik.

b. Group North is planning the following:

1. After the maneuvers on 11 May requested by the Fleet, the cruiser LUETZOW is to be transferred to Trondheim in 3 stages (fjord on the southeastern coast of Norway, fjord north of Bergen). Group North

requests that all destroyers and torpedo boats available at the beginning of the new moon period in May be assigned to this operation and that they be supplied with the necessary fuel. (BEITZEN, ECKOLDT, LODY, STEINBRINCK, destroyer Z "29", and 2 torpedo boats.)

2. Taking advantage of the pause after the first stage of the voyage the destroyers will be ordered to carry out mining operation 17 b (renewal of Westwall).

3. Group North also proposes that the PRINZ EUGEN remain in Norway during the summer. Besides saving fuel, she could be useful there for defense tasks.

4. After the LUETZOW and the destroyers have arrived in Trondheim, Group North intends to send the SCHEER and the LUETZOW and 4 destroyers into the Arctic area (Alta Fjord) for hit and run raids against Murmansk convoys.

5. Finally Group North requests a definite decision concerning the shipyard periods required by the light naval forces operating in northern waters; delay would be undesirable.

According to the proposal by the Naval Staff, the Chief, Naval Staff approves the above-mentioned plans concerning the transfer of the LUETZOW to Trondheim, the laying of mine field 17 b by destroyers, and the transfer of the SCHEER and the LUETZOW into the Arctic area. Escorted by destroyers and torpedo boats in need of overhauling, the PRINZ EUGEN is to proceed to German waters in May, if possible prior to 10 May. As soon as possible the Trondheim shipyard will be enlarged to provide repair facilities in northern waters. Repair ship HUASCARAN will be made available for overhauling engines. Necessary overhaul and repair must not be postponed; otherwise the few destroyers and torpedo boats available will wear out completely.

For copy of telegram as per 1/Skl I op 799/42 Gkdos. Chefs. see War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

c. In accordance herewith Group North has issued the following instructions on naval operations and the transfer of ships for the month of May:

1. Destroyers under the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean received orders to lay mines off Kola Bay.

2. When the mining operation is completed destroyers Z "24" and "25" are to be released. They are to proceed to Trondheim, to be at the disposal of the PRINZ EUGEN.

3. The Commanding Admiral, Battleships has ordered that the SCHEER escorted by 2 destroyers sail to Bogen Bay on or about 15 May, and from there to the Alta Fjord area. The SCHOEMANN is to join the SCHEER in Bogen Bay. Thus 3 destroyers will be under the operational command of that ship. For the time being this group will remain under the Commanding Admiral, Battleships.

4. Store ship DITHMARSCHEN is to proceed with ammunition to Bogen Bay for assignment to the SCHEER group.

5. The LUETZOW with destroyer escort is to be transferred to Norway.

The Chief, Naval Staff orders that the command authority be clarified.

Apparently the requirements of the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean are not being met at present.

V. The Chief, Naval Staff, Operations Branch also reports on mine fields and plans for mining operations in the Skagerrak. The Fuehrer has requested that completion of these mine fields be kept in mind.

VI. The Chief, Naval Staff reports on discussions of the Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff which weighed the possibilities of carrying out German sabotage raids on the British coast similar to those of the British along the French coast. The Navy has little interest in such operations, because the success which can be expected cannot possibly justify the risks involved, especially since naval forces such as PT boats and destroyers are required for these raids.

The Chief, Naval Staff refuses categorically to discuss such proposals.

The Chief, Naval Staff speaks then on intelligence operation "Pastorius", a plan for the purpose of landing German agents on the U.S. coast, with 2 submarines carrying 4 to 5 men each. With the approval of the Naval Staff, the Navy Desk at the Espionage Section, Intelligence Division of the Armed Forces High Command will arrange matters directly with the Commanding Admiral, Submarines.

Special Items:

I. Concerning the command authority in the Netherlands:

The following are particulars from the minutes of the conference by the Chief, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch:

a. The Netherlands will remain under the administration of the Naval Station, North Sea.

b. In connection with the task "Battle for the Coast" (Fuehrer Directive No. 40) the Netherlands will be under the operational command of the Commander in Chief, West, and also of the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Netherlands; the latter will be commander in chief of the Army divisions assigned to this task. The 15th Army Command will remain outside the chain of command.

c. As far as naval organization is concerned the Netherlands will be divided into 2 areas:

(1) One area under the Admiral, Netherlands, including Antwerp and extending from the Dutch-Belgian border to the newly established border, which runs from a point between Ameland and Schiermonnikoog in a southeastern direction, east of Groningen and south of Winschoten.

(2) The other area extends east from the first area, and is under the Coastal Defense Commander, German Bight.

The Admiral, Netherlands and the Coastal Defense Commander, German Bight will remain under the command of Naval Station, North Sea.

In the battle for the coast (in accordance with Directive No. 40 and the instructions issued in this connection by the Commander in Chief, Navy) only the Admiral, Netherlands will be under the operational com-

mand of the Commander in Chief, West via the Commanding General, Armed Forces, Netherlands. The Coastal Defense Commander, German Bight with the part of the Netherlands under his jurisdiction takes his orders only from the Commanding Admiral, North Sea Station. The Commanding General Armed Forces, Netherlands is responsible for the whole Netherlands area only in territorial matters.

d. The boundaries of the areas under the naval commanders of northern and southern Holland will be adjusted to coincide with those under the divisional commanders.

e. In the battle of the coast the North Sea Station performs only quartermaster duties in the area of the Admiral, Netherlands, but will continue to have full authority over naval matters.

f. With respect to the coastal defense, all concerned agree that naval warfare tasks rank in importance above the tasks connected with the battle of the coast. Therefore naval warfare will be given first consideration in setting up coastal artillery installations.

Originally it had been intended to solve this question in accordance with Fuehrer Directive No. 40 by appointing the Commanding Admiral, Naval Station, North Sea as Commander of the Armed Forces for the entire Netherlands area. While the above arrangement may not be the best solution, it may be looked upon as clarifying command authority in case there should be a battle for the coast.

II. Concerning Navy-Air Force cooperation:

Pointing out that negligence has occurred in the past, the Commander in Chief, Air, Operations Staff requests that in the future the Air Force headquarters concerned must be informed within the shortest time possible of any changes regarding the schedule of ship movements which entail issuing new instructions to fighter escorts. Thus planes will not have to take off in vain. (See Telegram 2100.)

Steps have been taken to inform the various commands concerned of this self-evident request.

III. Ferry barges which can be dismantled:

In September 1941 the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division was requested to develop a certain vessel and to find out in what quantities she might be manufactured. This vessel should be capable of performing duties of part combat-engineer, part nautical nature, e.g., such tasks as had to be performed in the Baltic islands during the combined Army-Navy operations. As for using the Army's Siebel ferries, the fact that they use airplane motors is sufficient reason why it will be out of the question simply to take them over. The following are the necessary requirements: It must be possible to dismantle them for transportation on land; they must have motor drive, a minimum speed of 10 knots, light anti-aircraft armament, and seaworthiness up to sea 3 - 4.

Now after approximately 7 months the Naval Construction Division has submitted preliminary plans for a motor lighter which are supposed to conform with the above requirements.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Fleet Branch was therefore instructed to continue work on this project and to clarify the questions still unsolved: Armament, quarters for the crew, time required for

construction, and seaworthiness. The Fleet Branch is requested to place orders for the construction of these vessels as much as possible with inland shipyards not working at full capacity, taking into account the future main areas of operation in the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, and the Aegean Sea.

IV. Transport of PT boats through the Turkish Straits:

In accordance with orders by the Chief, Naval Staff, the Naval Construction Division, taking advantage of the experience gathered in transferring landing craft from Varna to Salonika through the Straits, has worked out plans for camouflaging the PT boats. It is proposed that the eye-catching deck parts be removed and a second deck extending the length of the vessel be added; a camouflaging outer skin should be added to give the boats the appearance of coastal freighters. These alterations could be undertaken in Salamis, and would require approximately 3 weeks from the time the necessary material arrives there.

The final decision on this plan remains to be made. Preparations are being made by the Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

Situation 27 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

The Admiralty announced the loss of the destroyer SOUTHWOLD and the patrol boat STELLA CAPELLAE.

2. Own Situation:

Ship "28" reported at 0317: "My supply ship still has 2,500 tons of fuel left. Need machine parts. CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN capable of making 10 knots; she can stay at sea 4 months longer."

This answers the various questions which the Naval Staff directed to ship "28" on 10 and 20 Apr.

For confirmation of this report by the Naval Staff see Telegram 1616. Telegram 0539 contains special instructions of the Torpedo Inspectorate to ship "28" concerning care of the electrically driven torpedoes (G 7e).

Radiograms 0318 and 1934 contain information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance a convoy of 16 steamers with 3 destroyers, 2 torpedo boats, and 3 patrol boats was steering on a northerly course in St. George's Channel.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

In the evening the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla left Royan for an exploratory sweep.

Instructions were sent to Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines to meet and bring in blockade-runner PORTLAND, which is expected to arrive in Bordeaux on or about 10 May. At 0000 on 3 May the ship will come under the jurisdiction of Group West.

Channel Coast:

In the afternoon enemy planes attacking the Ostend harbor area caused slight damage. A battery at St. Pol shot down 1 Spitfire. Naval batteries took part in shooting down additional enemy planes.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

In the morning air reconnaissance spotted a northbound convoy of undetermined size under plane escort south of Firth of Forth.

Own Situation:

For belated report on the damage caused by the enemy air raid against Flushing on 24 Apr. see Telegram 1245.

At 0045 on 27 Apr. enemy planes damaged the steamer INGA west of Sylt. In quadrant AN 9358 at 2329 another bomb hit the steamer while she was being towed in, causing additional severe damage.

Mine-sweeping activities are limited due to bad weather. It is believed that aerial mines were dropped in the German Bight.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance the convoy sighted in quadrant AL 31 on 26 Apr. consists of 10 ships preceded by 3 destroyers. The convoy was followed by a ship of about 20,000 GRT with a high freeboard, the most striking characteristic of which was an upper deck extending from stem to stern; she was presumably a passenger steamer converted into a carrier.

A plane sighted a submerged enemy submarine in the vicinity of the Halten mine field off Trondheim.

Own Situation:

Four boats of the 6th PT Boat Flotilla have arrived in Svolvaer.

At 0926 an enemy reconnaissance plane was sighted over the Aasen Fjord.

Reconnaissance over the convoy route Iceland-Bear Island brought no results. Group North believes that the convoy spotted in quadrant AL 31

is part of convoy PQ 15. Assuming a 3 weeks period between convoys PQ 14 and 15 as there was between PQ 13 and 14, Group North expects convoy PQ 15 to leave Reykjavik on or about 29 Apr. and to arrive at Bear Island about 5 May.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

Nothing to report.

V. Merchant Shipping

1. Standardization of merchant ship construction in Great Britain and the United States has led to the development of the following types: In Great Britain a slow freighter of 7,000 GRT is being built with piston propulsion, and a fast freighter of 9,000 GRT with turbine propulsion. In the United States there are the standard ships developed for the long-range building program, the emergency freighters (Liberty ships), and the new tankers. So as to alleviate the catastrophic tonnage shortage, revolutionary methods are being employed in the mass production of ships. Transverse frames are being used only in the part of the ship below the water line.

See Brief Report No. 13/42 by the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch for more details in this connection, among other things, and for information on the lively shipping traffic between the Suez area and Cyprus, between Tripoli, Malta, and Cyprus, and between Turkey and the Aegean Sea.

2. On 5 May the German Naval Staff intends to issue instructions to Norwegian ships to put into Axis-held ports. In this connection orders were sent to Group West, Group North, and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, with copies to the German Admiral in Rome, Group South, and the Operations Staff of the Commander in Chief, Air Force, that considerate treatment is to be accorded all unescorted Norwegian ships complying with this German demand. The Groups are to see to it that all naval forces concerned are informed in time. The Commanding Admiral, Submarines is to issue the necessary instructions to comply with this order to all concerned under his jurisdiction. For copy of the corresponding telegram see 1/Skl I op 15 672/42 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XI.

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

According to an intelligence report a westbound convoy of 29 steamers, 6 corvettes, and 1 gunboat has left Gibraltar.

2. Own Situation:

No reports of successes were received.

For submarine operations in the northern area see supplementary report

on the Submarine Situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

The opinion of the Chief, Naval Staff, Communications Division is sent to Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines along with a revised version of the instructions for cooperation by merchant ships in convoy tasks, as per 1/Skl I K 8199/42 Gkdos. For copy see War Diary, Part C, Vol. IV.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the night of 26 Apr. German planes made a retaliatory raid against Bath, dropping extra-heavy and heavy explosive bombs and almost 8,000 incendiary bombs. Results were exceptionally good. In combatting daylight incursions on 27 Apr., German fighters shot down 12 and anti-aircraft shot down 4 of the enemy planes. 6 additional enemy planes which were not being fired on also crashed. On the night of 27 Apr. German planes raided Norwich. That same night 60 to 70 enemy planes raided the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area, concentrating their attack on Cologne. Single planes flew over the Kiel Bight and over the Nuernberg-Stuttgart area. Other incursions were reported from Belgium, northern France, western France, and the Netherlands. A large number of planes flew over Norway, where 30 bombs were dropped on Trondheim.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

Strong forces continued the attacks against Malta. Planes escorting German convoys dropped bombs on 2 enemy submarines, which were probably damaged. German planes attacked Tobruk during the night of 26 Apr. Effects were observed.

3. Eastern Front:

In the Sea of Azov 8 enemy cutters were sunk, and 12 were set afire. In the Gulf of Finland, 31 Ju 87's attacked shipping targets in Leningrad during the afternoon. Results are not known yet.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

No changes.

2. Own Situation:

The 3rd PT Boat Flotilla plans to send 6 boats to lay mines near Malta during the night of 27 Apr.

3. Situation Italy:

In the evening of 26 Apr. enemy planes attacked the harbor of Benghazi. No damage to military installations.

6 Italian submarines are operating in the Mediterranean at present.

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In accordance with Naval Staff orders, the German Naval Command, Italy asked the Italian Admiralty to find out whether it might be possible to assign additional workers to the construction of landing craft. It was learned that the present number of workers in Palermo is sufficient for the material which is to be provided, and that it would be impractical to increase this number. According to the viewpoint of the Italian Admiralty it is more important to step up the shipment of material from Germany if construction of the landing craft is to be expedited. The Palermo shipyard reports that 7 of these vessels will be completed by 15 Jun. and 9 more by 30 Jul. It is not possible to predict when the remaining 19 will be finished.

The Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division was ordered to take all possible measures which may serve to accelerate the completion of the landing craft in Italy.

4. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Returning from a supply run to Tripoli, the steamer UNIONE arrived in Palermo with a damaged rudder. In the night of 26 Apr. enemy planes repeatedly attacked the steamer MONREALE without success. The steamer was escorted by 2 destroyers. Except for these incidents the transport of supplies to Tripoli and Benghazi and supply traffic along the coast proceeded undisturbed according to plan.

5. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

The steamer IVOREA has arrived in Preveza. Other supply traffic proceeding without incident.

Black Sea:

A Rumanian destroyer dropped depth charges in a surprise attack on a partially submerged enemy submarine. Result was not observed. Convoys and transports are proceeding without incidents according to plan.

According to the Naval Shore Command, Crimea no landing took place at Genichesk. Ten rowboats disappeared into the rushes when they were fired on from land. Off Genichesk on Biryuch Island, which is now in Rumanian hands, a number of fishing boats were run ashore.

IX. Situation East Asia

Nothing to report.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Little combat activity.

Central Army Group:

In the Khalzevo and Mtsensk sector the enemy increased his attacks, supported by tanks, armored trains, and planes. Advanced German combat outposts were withdrawn to the main fighting line. Counterattacks are in progress. There is stubborn fighting in the area west of Spas Demensk. Southwest of Rzhev German troops gained ground in a southwestern direction. They were supported by dive bombers which attacked the enemy 11 times. The position of the German troops near Byeloi is still difficult. West of Demidov German troops succeeded in gaining ground. Heavy fighting around Velish.

Northern Army Group:

The Eicke Group continued to advance northward. The Von Seydlitz Group repulsed 2 strong enemy thrusts from the southwest. German dive bombers smashed enemy positions west of Yamno. Enemy attempts to attack near Soltsy and south of Maluksa were frustrated.

Nothing to report from the Finnish and Norwegian fronts.

2. North Africa:

Along the entire front lively enemy reconnaissance activity.

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28 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

The break in diplomatic relations with the South African Union is the reason for Admiral Darlan's latest order to the commanding officer of Madagascar, instructing him to defend the island under any circumstances.

Great Britain:

Beaverbrook's speech in New York has attracted wide attention in London. His speech is being interpreted as adverse criticism of the Cabinet and as an attempt to exert pressure on the Cabinet.

Cripps stated in a speech that the German people cannot possibly understand the Indian question. He declared that the British and the Indians agree on the main problem of world policy, i.e., the necessity of defeating German and Japanese Fascism.

Gandhi has voiced his disapproval with regard to the sending of foreign troops to India and has protested against the rising influence of the United States which may even lead to American domination of India.

U.S.S.R.:

Molotov sent a note to all countries with which Moscow maintains diplomatic relations, informing them of alleged German atrocities. For details see Political Review No. 98, Paragraph 3.

U.S.A.:

For contents of Roosevelt's message to Congress on taxation, wage and price policies see Political Review No. 98, Paragraph 4.

According to foreign reports Secretary of State Hull has taken over official business once more, after several months leave of absence. He is said to have averted the imminent invasion of Madagascar, supposedly because so far no definite proof exists that Japan really plans to occupy this island. The real reason for Hull's action, however, is probably connected with the present relations between the United States and France.

Japan:

According to Domei, Prime Minister Togo held an election speech in which he declared that the approaching phase of the war will be a severe test for the Japanese nation. He said that the Japanese must be prepared for direct enemy attacks against their mother country. The coming election will be important as a means of strengthening the internal structure of the nation for the purpose of continuing the war successfully.

A report from the Embassy confirms that the French government is surrendering the merchant fleet in Indo-China by having Japan confiscate the ships. This procedure was chosen on the request of the French government, which hopes that it can thus avoid differences with the United States. The French are to keep smaller vessels amounting to 19,000 GRT for coastal traffic. Sea-going vessels amounting to a total of 60,000 GRT will be subject to confiscation.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Staff Communications Division reports on the conference with the Chief, Air Force Intelligence Service, General Martini:

a. The order concerning cooperation between naval forces and fighter planes is finally in force for all air forces.

b. All concerned fully agree as to the value of attaching naval radio detachments to Air Force commands and the value of establishing a special wave length, as has been done by the 5th Air Force, in order to provide the fastest possible communication between the forces of the two branches of the Armed Forces.

c. A switch to a special wave length when the plane has established contact with the enemy would be impractical, since planes should not be burdened with such details while in action. A solution has been found according to which the air commander concerned will tune in on this wave length and will be responsible for immediately transmitting incoming contact reports over this wave length. In addition, all naval offices concerned will tune in on the direction-finding long wave for planes.

The new measures will go into effect on 1 May.

II. The Chief, Naval Attache Section reports that the Naval Attache Tokyo has returned from a trip to the front, and that a report on his experiences is to be expected. The Chief, Naval Attache Section also conveys a request of the Japanese Navy for more discretion in handing out information: The Foreign Office, for instance, told Ambassador Oshima about the voyage of the Japanese submarine to western France, of which he had had no previous knowledge.

III. The Commander in Chief, Navy considers it necessary to order that in the future all persons outside the Navy will be required to apply for permission from the Commander in Chief, Navy whenever they wish to visit or inspect any naval installations, etc. Furthermore all reports which these visitors wish to send to non-Navy authorities will have to be submitted to the Navy first.

The Commander in Chief, Navy also intends to discuss this matter with Reich Minister Speer.

IV. In accordance with instructions of the Chief, Naval Staff (see War Diary 27 Apr.), the Chief of Staff, Naval Staff informed the Commanding Admiral, Group North by telephone as to regulation of command authority for the Fleet forces operating in the Arctic area. The Commanding Admiral, Group North confirmed by telegram that putting this group under the Commanding Admiral, Battleships means merely tactical subordination; Group North or the Admiral, Arctic Ocean will continue to have operational command of the group. According to an order by Group North, this command is to be transferred to the Admiral, Arctic Ocean in operations against convoys. Group North reserves the right to take over command if additional forces are employed. It is planned to change berths in the Alta Fjord region frequently.

The question of reinforcing the anti-aircraft defense of Trondheim is also discussed, a measure which the Commanding Admiral, Group North considers desirable. The NYMPHE will transfer to Trondheim on or about 10 May to serve as an anti-aircraft vessel. The Commanding Admiral, Group North believes that the 7.5 cm. anti-aircraft guns which will be available in Kiel ought to be sent to Flensburg because of the danger of air raids on the naval installations there. In view of the present

situation, anti-aircraft protection of Eckernfoerde, Wismar, Stralsund, and Rostock should also have priority over Aasen Fjord. The Chief, Naval Staff and the Naval Staff share this opinion.

V. The Naval Staff Operations Division, Foreign Affairs Section then reports the action of the German Military Attache in approaching the Chief of the Turkish General Staff with regard to passing German submarines through the Turkish Straits. For details see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

The Chief, Naval Staff feels that the attitude taken by Turkey is fully justified and that the present time is inopportune for bringing up the question. The Naval Attache at Istanbul, who reported on the matter to the Commander in Chief, Navy, is of the same opinion.

Special Items

I. For a statement on the new vessels which will be completed in German shipyards between 1 Apr. 1942 and 31 Mar. 1943 see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

According to this estimate a total of 236 submarines will be completed during that period, or 19.7 per month. For other vessels the following figures are quoted: 4 destroyers, 5 torpedo boats, 40 mine sweepers, 15 small coastal minelaying craft, 29 PT boats, 50 motor mine sweepers, 9 submarine chasers, and others.

II. The Second Admiral, Submarines reports that the three submarines, U "9", "19", and "24", to be transferred to the Black Sea, have been taken to Kiel because of the favorable situation at the navy yard and the Deutsche Werke there. U "24" will probably be ready for shipment to Linz by 26 May, will arrive in Galatz on 26 Aug., and will be ready for operations on 19 Sep. U "9" and U "19" will follow in intervals of 4 weeks, so that the third boat will be ready for operations on 14 Nov.

Situation 28 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

South Atlantic:

450 miles northwest of Capetown the U.S. steamer STEEL TRADER sent a submarine warning signal which was followed by a code message 1 hour later. Neither German nor Japanese submarines could have been the cause for the distress signal.

Pacific Ocean:

On 25 Apr. a Russian icebreaker of the KRASIN class was reported in the Strait of Magellan outbound to the Pacific Ocean. This was probably the Russian auxiliary vessel MIKOYAN en route from Montevideo to Vladivostok.

2. Own Situation:

Nothing to report from German ships in foreign waters.

In Radiogram 1849 previous orders were cancelled and the REGENSBURG was instructed to proceed south from point "Sellerie" to the latitude of point "Ruebe", and to approach the new waiting area on that latitude, concerning which detailed instructions will follow.

Radiogram 2114 was sent to ship "10" to inform her of the order sent to the REGENSBURG. This order complies with the Naval Staff's desire to give ship "10" complete freedom of action against newly discovered ship routes.

Radiograms 1651, 2201, and 2202 give the position of the Italian "Alfa" group at 34° S, 27° E as of 26 Apr., as well as information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

According to the radio intercept service of the Air Force a convoy of 30 steamers and 4 escort vessels sailed from Reykjavik in the evening of 27 Apr. 18 of these steamers are bound for Londonderry, the other 12 and the 4 escort vessels are bound for Portrush. At 2117 a convoy was located in the Bristol Channel.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

After completion of an exploratory sweep the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla has again left port.

Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines were informed with respect to the instructions sent to the PORTLAND according to Radiogram 1609.

Channel Coast:

During the night of 27 Apr. enemy planes attacked Dunkirk, dropping about 200 explosive bombs. So far no report on the damage has been received. In the morning of 28 Apr. an enemy fighter attacked and slightly damaged a harbor patrol boat off Nieuport. Two men were killed.

Special Items

1. Concerning enemy landings in western Europe.

a. Group West has examined the captured British operations order for the St. Nazaire raid with respect to the weather conditions stipulated for the undertaking. The Group arrived at the conclusion that during the 4 nights just before full moon the same conditions as at St. Nazaire would prevail for similar operations along the parts of the coast which run approximately north and south. However so far no

conclusions could be drawn for the parts running east and west. In general the enemy is not likely to time his landing too close to the high-tide period, so that the water is still certain to be coming in when he is reembarking. Landing with the moon at the back would seem to be disadvantageous, since the possibility of detection is greater. For copy of telegram as per 1/Skl 10045/42 Gkdos. see reference file "British Landing at St. Nazaire 28 Mar. 1942".

b. In the middle of March the Naval Liaison Officer at the Army High Command submitted certain ideas, which grew out of the views held by the Naval Staff as to possible enemy landings in western Europe (see War Diary 23 Feb.) and of the over-all view held by the Army General Staff, Intelligence Division West, with the request to examine them. For copy of memorandum and the viewpoint of the Naval Staff, Operations Section expressed in the reply see 1/Skl 6224/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIb.

2. Concerning the increasing offensive activity of enemy naval forces in the Channel.

Lately enemy naval forces have been increasing their offensive activity in the English Channel: PT boats and destroyers have attacked German convoys and the enemy has increased his mining activity, using destroyers as mine carriers. German PT boats in particular are feeling the increase in enemy action in the form of enemy patrols covering the approach and return routes and the operational area of the PT boats, as well as increased and successful operations of enemy fighters after dawn and during moon-lit nights. The Naval Staff feels that in addition to sending bombers and dive bombers against operational harbors serving light British naval forces, and in addition to giving fighter protection to German PT boats, the following measures must be taken: Reinforcement of escort forces, preferably with boats which are well-suited for anti-PT boat action; supporting German PT boats with vessels having greater fighting power and effective anti-aircraft armament; and stronger fighter protection. Boats of the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla, because of their effective guns, are believed best suited for this purpose. For the time being this flotilla will remain assigned to Group West to be employed on the Atlantic Coast, where it is also urgently needed for exploratory sweeps in the waters frequented by submarines. The vessels of the 4th Torpedo Boat Flotilla (new torpedo boats of the Fleet) will be just as well suited for operations in the Channel as those of the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla, possibly even better. Up-to-date mine sweepers are a further possibility; however, at present it will not be possible to withdraw them from the area of Group North for employment in the Channel. The 6th Mine Sweeper Flotilla which will soon be ready for action will be assigned to the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West starting in May of this year. However for the time being these mine sweepers will not be available for direct support of our PT boats, because they are needed to reinforce escorts of exceptionally vital convoys. The new large motor mine sweepers will probably be well suited to support the PT boats later on. It is all the more unfortunate that the new time schedule postpones the completion of the first boats of this type for an indefinite period. It will thus be impossible to support PT boat operations with strong fighting forces, a measure which the Naval Staff considers urgently necessary. Instead makeshift means will have to be employed.

Therefore Group West has been ordered to try, by using the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla in support of PT boat operations, to gather experience in cooperation between these forces so that other forces which may be used will profit.

Surprisingly enough, however, Group West is against the idea of having torpedo boats operate together with PT boats, stressing the great danger of mines in the main operational area of the PT boats, the danger of attracting destroyers which are fast and superior, as well as the fact that the torpedo boats are indispensable to the Commanding Admiral, Submarines, and to urgent escort tasks.

The Naval Staff orders Group West to request and submit the opinion of the Commander, PT Boats on this question, unless this has already been taken into account.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Radio decoding revealed that the American battleship WASHINGTON and the heavy cruisers TUSCALOOSA and WICHITA were in Scapa waters on 15 Apr. According to radio intelligence and the radio intercept service of the Air Force there was lively traffic of large convoys off the east coast of England.

Own Situation:

During the night of 27 Apr. enemy planes were very active along the western coasts of Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark. It is believed that they dropped aerial mines. There was also lively enemy air activity in the area of the Admiral, Netherlands.

The steamer INGAR sank west of Sylt.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

During the night of 27 Apr. the enemy landed 150 to 200 men in each of 3 different places along the southwest coast of Motovski Bay between Litsa and Titovka. Lively air activity in the Trondheim area, where the attacks centered on Aasen Fjord. At 2200 air reconnaissance sighted a convoy of 15 steamers and 6 destroyers steering a northwestern course off Murmansk, evidently a QP convoy. According to radio intelligence the convoy located between Scotland and Iceland on 27 Apr. which Group North believed to be convoy PQ 15 is in reality PQ 16. If so, convoy PQ 15 must still be in Reykjavik or is sailing east already.

For information concerning fortifications of Teriberka Bay and Shelpin Bay (Murman Coast) see News Evaluation No. 19 of the Naval Intelligence Division, Foreign Navies Branch.

Own Situation:

During the night of 27 Apr. approximately 30 enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked the ship berths in Aasen Fjord near Trondheim. Anti-aircraft batteries of the Air Force scored hits. Attacks against Trondheim harbor and the Ecken shipyard harbor failed as well. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean reports the following: In Aasen Fjord, Air Force anti-aircraft batteries shot down 5 planes for certain and probably 3 more, and the Fleet shot down three enemy planes. In the vicinity of

Trondheim naval anti-aircraft guns shot down 1 enemy plane for certain, and probably another one. A third plane was damaged and evidently succeeded in escaping to Sweden.

The Commanding Admiral, Battleships reported additional details and declared that the use of smoke is the best protection of the ships against air attacks in spite of the fact that it handicaps anti-aircraft fire. (See Telegram 1418.)

The supply ship NORDMARK also declared that the smoke equipment had proved its worth. She had made use of the degaussing gear, believing that mines were among the 24 bombs which had fallen near the ship. (See Telegram 1854.)

The Commanding Admiral, Battleships also reports that a new type of aerial depth charge had been observed, 8 of which were picked up near the TIRPITZ. Weight of explosive charge: 425 kilograms. (See Telegram 2210.)

In connection with the Russian landing in Motovski Bay, where the enemy is likely to bring up reinforcements and supplies by ship, a request for naval support made by the Army Mountain Corps to the Admiral, Arctic Ocean had to be rejected by Group North; submarines would not be successful as they are ineffective against small vessels sailing close to the shore, and destroyers and PT boats cannot be used because of the doubtful mine situation, heavy shore batteries, and enemy escort forces which are likely to be strong. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean also considers it inadvisable to employ submarines, as the Army requested, for the purpose of harassing the enemy east of Motovski Bay off Kola Bay, especially because this would not put a stop to the traffic of coastal motor boats. After the situation was discussed with the Army, even the Army believes a large-scale employment of naval forces unnecessary. The Army and the Air Force must be the ones to combat the enemy.

Group North agrees with the opinion of the Commanding Admiral, Arctic Ocean. (See Telegram 1916.)

The Naval Staff shares this opinion.

For submarine operations against convoy leaving Murmansk, and against the main objective, convoy PQ 15, see Submarine Situation.

Group North informed the Admiral, Arctic Ocean about the plan to transfer him and the submarine base to the Tromsoe-Harstad-Narvik area in order to combat convoy traffic, since it will be necessary to focus future submarine operations in the waters around Jan Mayen and the Bear Island Strait. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean was also informed of the intention of putting the pocket battleships in the arctic area under his operational command starting in the latter part of May. For copy of Naval Staff memorandum see 1/Skl 827/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

Pointing out that convoys entering Petsamo are frequently the target of enemy fire, the Commanding Admiral, Norway reported that very soon with the arrival of the arctic day it will no longer be possible to guarantee supply shipments to Petsamo. Group North believes it essential that the number of naval barges intended for the Commanding Admiral, Norway be increased so that the shipping traffic to Petsamo may be continued by having it run close to our coast. (See Telegram 1906.)

For mine-laying reports of the Admiral, Arctic Ocean and the Admiral, West Norwegian Coast see 1/Skl 16 231/42 geh. and 1/Skl 10073/42 Gkdos. concerning the minefield for the protection of Folla Fjord and concerning the declared area off Sogne Fjord (dummy barrages with explosive floats), in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The Naval Staff asked the Admiral, Arctic Ocean for his viewpoint regarding the possibilities for tactical naval operations in the Arctic Ocean, in coordination with the German Air Force, taking into account the present enemy situation, the season, and weather conditions. The same request was sent to Group North and the Commanding Admiral, Norway. It is expected that Group North will give its opinion with regard to the expected statements of the Admiral, Arctic Ocean. The Naval Staff believes that a survey of the submarine situation could lead to the withdrawal of a number of submarines from the Arctic Ocean during the summer months. However any decision in this connection is not to be made until the results of operations against convoy PQ 15 are known.

For copy of telegram see 1/Skl 10044/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The Commanding Admiral, Norway ordered that Svolvaer be made the main operational base for the 6th PT Boat Flotilla. The Naval Staff, Operations Division has approved the measure.

For copy of the above see 1/Skl I op 9868/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

See Telegram 1845 for the report on the situation submitted by the Commanding Admiral, Norway. The report contains nothing more of importance.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

On 27 Apr. vessels of the mine and barrage command in the western part of the Baltic Sea shot down 2 enemy planes.

For telegram of Naval Group North concerning the line dividing the reconnaissance areas of the 1st Air Force, the Finnish Air Force, and the special "Burchmann" squadron under the Admiral, Baltic Countries see 1/Skl 10070/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

V. Merchant Shipping

Report No. 10/42 of the Naval Staff Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch includes an extensive survey on the state and the development of merchant shipbuilding in the United States. It reveals that at the end of 1941 the over-all building program called for 1,651 ocean-going merchant ships. In January 1942 the program was expanded by 638 ships; thus the present program calls for 1,407 liberty ships, 661 standard ships, and 221 tankers, with a total of 16,800,000 GRT. The speed of the standard ships and tankers runs between 14 and 18 knots, and of the liberty ships between 10 and 11 knots.

As for building facilities, 256 slipways were available for the merchant ship program in the beginning of 1942. It is planned to have 394 slipways ready for operation by the end of 1942, whereby the shipyards at

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the Great Lakes are not being taken into consideration.

Execution of the program: By 31 Dec. 1941 a total of 191 ships amounting to 1,500,000 GRT were launched. Therefore 1,397 liberty ships, 535 standard ships, and 166 tankers, a total of approximately 15,200,000 GRT, remain to be completed in 1942-43. SEA OTTER freighters are not included in the new building program.

As for the likelihood that the program is carried out, it is pointed out to begin with that part of the 1942 program will have to be carried over into 1943, because there are still not quite enough slipways available. Thus some of the ships may not be completed before the early part of 1944. Smooth and punctual cooperation of sub-contractors, steel manufacturers, and assembly yards, and a satisfactory solution of the skilled labor problem are the prerequisites if the whole program is to be realized. The Naval Staff, Intelligence Division stresses that in spite of curtailments which may result if this cooperation fails, the United States will do everything in their power to carry out the shipbuilding program, since the lack of shipping facilities would make their entire armament program useless. Therefore shipbuilding has priority over plane and tank production. Shipyards get A Ia priority for all steel, ship motors, auxiliary motors, and all other raw materials essential to shipbuilding. (Planes get A I b, tanks get A I c.)

VI. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

One British vessel was located west of Porcupine Bank and one 200 miles northwest of Cape Ortegal. Submarine sighting reports were picked up from the U.S. coast east of Portland, in the Gulf of Maine, and south of Long Island. The U.S. Navy Department announces that the destroyer STURTEVANT sank off the coast of Florida.

Submarine sighting reports were intercepted from the West Indies east of Georgetown and south of Curacao. A steamer was torpedoed in this region.

2. Own Situation:

The Admiral, Arctic Ocean intends to use 7 submarines against the westbound QP convoy and then against convoy PQ 15. Group North will be able to send only 2 boats against convoy PQ 15, because several other boats will not be ready for action in time. Besides, some of them must be kept in reserve to operate against convoy PQ 16 which is already reported on the way to Reykjavik. For details see supplement to the Submarine Situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

No success reports were received.

According to the Naval Attache, Tokyo, the Japanese Navy has agreed to a thorough inspection of the submarine which was sent to western France. The Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Naval Group West, and the Naval Staff Submarine Division, were informed accordingly.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

25 to 30 planes, the majority four-motored, carried out the enemy attack against the Trondheim area during the night of 27 Apr. According to the Air Force General Staff 11 enemy planes were shot down, including 5 by naval anti-aircraft guns. In the course of enemy daylight raids in the west area 9 planes were reported shot down for certain, one probably. In addition 3 planes crashed. Fighter bombers attacked traffic and shipyard installations near Hastings and on the Isle of Wight. In the afternoon 2 FW 200's on a long-range reconnaissance mission over Jan Mayen waters sighted a good-sized convoy in quadrant AE 23. It was proceeding on a northeastern course and was escorted by planes which engaged the FW 200's.

74 planes of the 3rd Air Force carried out a retaliatory night raid against York. The enemy attacked the north German coastal area with 30 to 35 planes, concentrating on Kiel. They lost 10 planes. Additional enemy planes flew over the Trondheim area. So far no detailed reports have been received. A few planes flew over Belgium-northern France, western France, and the Netherlands.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The attacks against Malta were continued.

The Italian Air Force reports that an aerial torpedo hit a steamer off Port Said on 27 Apr. In the evening Alexandria was attacked. According to information received so far, an SC 1800 bomb hit one end of the floating dock. It is reported that other hits were scored on 2 merchant ships, and many more on the harbor installations.

3. Eastern Front:

No reports were received from the army fronts. The harbors of Kerch and Novorossisk were attacked, and mines were laid in the harbor of Kamish Burun.

14 British and 1 Russian fighter were shot down in Litsa Bay and in the vicinity of Petsamo.

> Attention is called to the large number of enemy planes which were shot down, at least 48 planes since the evening of 27 Apr., according to reports received.

4. Organization:

With the agreement of the Naval Staff, the Air Force Operations Staff intends to subordinate the Commander, Naval Air in matters pertaining to administration and training to the Air Force General at the headquarters of the Commander in Chief, Navy. Ship plane squadron 1/196 will be attached to the Fleet Command of the Navy in tactical matters. The Operations Staff of the Commander in Chief, Air will ask the Naval Staff to permit that all planes and their crews which are not in use aboard ships be utilized for anti-submarine chase off the coast with the agreement of the Air Force Command of the respective area. The Naval Staff is informing the Air Force General at the headquarters of the Commander in Chief, Navy accordingly, requesting that he clarify the tasks which these changes will entail.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

In the morning an eastbound convoy of 7 vessels, types not identified, was spotted in Tobruk waters. In the evening a German submarine sighted the convoy about 45 miles east of Tobruk. In the afternoon German air reconnaissance sighted 2 motor mine sweepers steering course 300° about 20 miles southeast of Malta.

According to Italian information Malta has made an urgent appeal for new anti-aircraft gun barrels, anti-aircraft ammunition, flour, and water. The last item requested leads to the conclusion that our air raids have damaged the pumps and the underground water pipes leading from the northwestern part of the island to Valletta.

2. Situation Italy:

An enemy plane dropped bombs on the Italian torpedo boat CANTORE north-northwest of Ras el Augia.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Ship movements proceeded according to plan without incidents.

The following is the report of the Commanding Officer, Supply and Transport, Italy for March 1942:

a. In Tripoli:

Total discharged, not including tankers and colliers:	28,399 tons
Of this German goods amounted to:	14,386 tons
Coastal vessels carried:	8,304 tons
Of this German goods amounted to:	6,265 tons
Maximum daily discharge:	4,025 tons

b. In Benghazi:

Total discharged:	17,040 tons
Of this German goods amounted to:	9,335 tons
Total amount loaded:	3,988 tons
Of this German goods amounted to:	3,467 tons
Maximum daily discharge:	2,100 tons

It is being attempted to increase the daily discharge in Benghazi to 3,000 tons.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Enemy Situation:

A submarine was sighted approaching Suda Bay and another east-southeast of Milos.

Own Situation:

Transports are proceeding according to plan without incidents.

On 26 Apr. the Turkish steamer DUMLUPINAR with food for the Greek population arrived in Piraeus.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

According to radio monitoring cruiser A and 4 destroyers, leaving Tuapse waters, were once again steering a northern course in the afternoon. On 27 Apr. air reconnaissance reported 3 heavy cruisers, 3 destroyers (the bow of one was destroyed), 3 mine sweepers, 4 submarines (one in dock), 16 transport ships, and approximately 40 smaller vessels in Sevastopol. 3 wrecks were sighted as well.

Own Situation:

Transport and escort duties according to plan.

IX. Situation East Asia

Nothing to report.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Little fighting activity along the various fronts. In the rear area a large force of partisans with heavy weapons carried out a surprise attack, in the course of which Hungarian security troops were driven back from their positions about 15 kilometers. A company of German regional defense troops restored the situation.

Central Army Group:

The enemy launched heavy attacks against the 2nd Panzer Army, supported by tanks, but remained unsuccessful. In the area of the 3rd Panzer Army repeated enemy attacks northeast of Gzhatsk were smashed. Southwest of Byeloi heavy enemy attacks were repulsed. Lively fluctuating combat activity in the battle area around Velish.

Northern Army Group:

The German panzer division gained ground in the area around Kholm. The Eicke and the Von Seydlitz Groups succeeded in repulsing enemy attacks and mopped up the area on both sides of the Lovat. In the afternoon the first telephone conversation took place between the 16th Army Command and the II Army Corps. Thus direct contact was reestablished with this Army Corps which had been cut off for a long time. In the area of the 18th Army, German artillery went into action to combat enemy patrol activity and enemy preparations.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Lively enemy activity in the Loukhi sector, where further

attacks must be expected. Along the Murmansk front enemy attacks against the 6th Mountain Division are also expected to continue. Lively ship movements in the Gulf of Motovski are interpreted as signs of additional landings.

3. North Africa:

The day passed quietly. Normal artillery and scouting activity.

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29 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

France:

According to Italian reports, Ambassador Leahy declared at his last meeting with Marshal Petain that with regard to the situation in the French possessions which are at present not under Vichy control the United States is compelled to carry on negotiations with De Gaulle. He said that in general Washington is willing to recognize the legal authority of the Vichy government, but would have to make allowances later on if changes should occur with respect to the authority in the French colonial empire. Vichy interprets this last sentence as referring to Madagascar. In this connection the American Ambassador was said to have remarked that if De Gaulle attempts to seize Madagascar his government will interfere if the French government will pledge to refrain from further extending military collaboration with the Axis powers.

Great Britain:

Cripps gave an account of his India mission before the House of Commons. He reported agreement on all vital points with respect to the future Indian self-government. There was disagreement only with regard to the manner in which India is to be governed in the interim during the war, until the new constitution finally goes into effect. In this connection dispute arose over the relation between the Indian government to be appointed and the British commander of the Armed Forces, whose position per se is uncontested. Agreement was also reached with regard to India's representation at the big councils of war, and with regard to the fact that the office of the Viceroy will remain in British hands. For details see Political Review No. 99, Paragraph 2.

Canada:

The great majority of the votes in a plebescite on 27 Apr. accepted the government proposal to introduce universal compulsory military service on the largest scale possible and to use Canadian troops outside the country as well. A majority of votes were cast against the move only in the French-speaking Province of Quebec.

U.S.A.:

In a radio address on 29 Apr. Roosevelt declared that there are now American warships in all oceans, and that American troops have taken up their positions in South America, Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles, in the entire Near and Far East, in Australia, and in the Pacific. On the European front Russian forces have annihilated a bigger part of the enemy's army than all Allied nations combined. Roosevelt said that even now American planes are taking an active part in the defense of the French colonies, and that soon American Flying Fortresses are going to join in the battle for the liberation of the imperiled European continent. As for the Japanese advance southward, he asserted that the belief is justified that it can be stopped. Australia, New Zealand, and many other areas will serve as bases for the offensive operations. Ways and means will also be found to continue shipments of war materiel to China.

Japan:

On 12 Apr. the Office of Military Affairs in the Japanese War Ministry

issued directives for Japanese government policy in the southern areas. They are identical with those already announced in the press. For details see Political Review No. 99, Paragraph 6.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. The Chief, Naval Staff Communications Division calls attention to the brush with the enemy in the Channel on 24 Apr. According to the battle report the speedy and effective defensive success of the German motor mine sweepers and mine sweepers was largely the result of the efficient radar location.

Headquarters of the Commanding Admiral, Submarines will be transferred to Angers.

Signal rocket equipment for the alarm signal "danger enemy landing" was ordered for the coastal defense stations; first for those in France, after that for those in Norway.

II. The Chief, Naval Attache Section reports that the Rumanian government wishes the German Navy to accept for training 6 naval officer candidates and 6 engineer officer candidates in the fall of 1942.

The Commander in Chief, Navy gives his approval under the condition that those chosen must know German.

From the standpoint of the intelligence service the presence in Goeteborg and other Swedish cities of many Jewish emigrees from Germany is very undesirable. According to the Swedish Navy, it will not be possible to expel these people because the German government will not give them permission to pass through or to leave the German-controlled area.

III. On the basis of Feller's report of 26 Apr., the Chief, Naval Intelligence Division speaks on American imperialistic plans in the Near East: Feller states that Polish, Greek, Yugoslav, Czech, and De Gaullist forces are extremely pro-American and are striving for close post-war relations with the United States. They would like to see an American-led and American-controlled Allied legion; Feller estimates the strength of this legion at about 140,000 to 150,000 men. They would require merely an allocation and shipment of equipment and supplies. Such an efficient and fanatic army of liberation would be capable, he states, of winning Turkey over to the Allied side and of effectively attacking German communications in the rear areas from the Balkans. British leadership is questionable, because the nations concerned suspect British post-war aims. Feller recommends that the War Department consider at once the organization of such an American-led international army of liberation in the Near East. He believes that in view of the danger from German attack against this area, the shipment of heavy bombers alone is an inadequate contribution on the part of the United States to this theater of war!

Special Items:

In connection with the plan of taking submarines through the Turkish Straits, Ambassador von Papen reported the viewpoint of the Turkish government as expressed by the Chief of Turkish General Staff in his meeting

with the German Military Attache. Von Papen suggested to the Foreign Office that the transfer of a large number of dismantled PT boats, rather than submarines, be considered. The Chief of Staff, Naval Staff discussed the matter via telephone with Ambassador Ritter, informing him that it will no longer be possible to follow up the submarine project. As for PT boats, a telegram was sent to the Ambassador informing him that the Fuehrer has decided against transferring the PT boats by water because they can be shipped faster by railroad. For details see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

Situation 29 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

North Atlantic:

According to an agent report the following warships are off Norfolk: 2 battleships, including the TEXAS; 2 carriers, including the RANGER; and 4 cruisers. In March the TENNESSEE was reported on the northern route.

South Atlantic:

According to the Naval Attache in Buenos Aires, travellers have stated that the QUEEN MARY arrived in Rio on 27 Apr. The last time she was located was on 27 Mar. off the southern coast of Australia while en route to Sidney.

Pacific Ocean:

American troops landed on New Caledonia.

2. Own Situation:

At 1857 a short code signal was received from ship "10": "2 May, large quadrant KT. Wish to be relieved of prisoners. Where is rendezvous point?"

Confirmation via Radiogram 2041.

Thereupon the Naval Staff sent Radiogram 0025 to the REGENSBURG instructing her to meet ship "10" on 2 May at the new point "Richard" for the purpose of taking over her prisoners and to proceed afterwards to the new rendezvous area.

Radiogram 2301 was sent to ship "10" informing her of the message sent to the REGENSBURG and instructing her that the next meeting with the REGENSBURG for the purpose of refueling is planned for the middle of June. After that the REGENSBURG will be released to sail to Japan.

Radiogram 1609 was sent to the PORTLAND informing her to be prepared for a rendezvous with a submarine between 3 and 7 May.

Radiogram 1620 was broadcast to all forces in the Atlantic informing them of the situation concerning the sovereignty in the French colonial empire.

New orders were sent to the steamer WARTENFELS to proceed to the Dutch East Indies and to hurry preparations, because 10 May is the last date for departure. The authorities in Madagascar have been instructed to cooperate with the WARTENFELS with regard to docking, repairs, equipment, and food. The authorities were promised all remaining coal with the exception of 800 tons to be retained for German use, if they will give the kind of support which will enable the WARTENFELS to sail on time. The ship was ordered to report when she is ready to leave port. (See Telegram 1017.)

Radiograms 1121 and 0650 were broadcast to all ships in foreign waters informing them of the location of the Italian East Africa steamers and of the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla left Nantes for an exploratory sweep.

Group West and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines have been instructed to arrange for blockade runner MUENSTERLAND, which is expected to arrive in Bordeaux on 17 May, to be met. A submarine is to meet her and bring her in, as was done with the PORTLAND. Group West is to take over command as of 0000 on 9 May.

Channel Coast:

Nothing to report.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

In the morning air reconnaissance sighted a northbound anti-aircraft cruiser off Harwich.

Own Situation:

During the night of 28 Apr. enemy planes were active over the west coast of Denmark, in the vicinity of Sylt, and over the Netherlands. Enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked mine sweeper M 1303 near the light-ship ELBE I on 28 Apr. A plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire. On 29 Apr. convoy and escort service proceeded according to plan without incidents.

Group North submitted the information received from the 5th Air Force that, weather permitting, daily patrols are intended to cover the harbors north of Tynemouth; however, results cannot always be expected because the enemy defense is exceptionally strong and because the

weather is seldom suitable for aerial photography.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

At 0840 air reconnaissance sighted a large northeast-bound force of 8 merchant ships, 1 aircraft carrier, and 3 destroyers southeast of the Faeroe Islands. Later reports corrected the count, i.e., 2 battleships, 1 cruiser, 1 aircraft carrier, 2 destroyers, and 9 steamers. Even this was not final, because photographic reconnaissance revealed later that the vessels which had appeared to be steamers were in reality light naval forces. They obviously represented a flanking escort for convoy PQ 15 moving between Iceland and Jan Mayen, a precaution evidently considered necessary to safeguard convoy traffic in the north Norwegian area because of the TIRPITZ and the other large ships there.

At 0800 the QP convoy which had left Murmansk was sighted by air reconnaissance in quadrant AC 8381, as well as 1 light westbound cruiser in quadrant AE 6352. Convoy PQ 15 was last spotted in quadrant AE 2646 or 2346 at 1615 on 28 Apr. Convoy PQ 16 was last sighted at noon on 26 Apr. on course 330° in quadrant AL 3152.

Own Situation:

The 7 vessels sailing with the heavy ships in quadrant AE, which were first thought to be steamers, led Group North to suspect an enemy raid. Therefore the Fleet forces in the Norway area were ordered to be ready on 3 hours notice, while submarines were ordered to be ready on 1 hour's notice after being made ready for operations.

The Admiral, Arctic Ocean placed 7 submarines employed against the QP and PQ convoys as group "Strauchritter" along the patrol line between quadrants AC 5679 and AC 5845. The Air Force will be unable to use many planes for reconnaissance missions, because in view of the situation along the land front of the Mountain Corps the bombers may have to be used for that purpose. It is planned to attack convoy PQ 15 in the vicinity of Bear Island no later than 2 May, unless air reconnaissance shows the necessity for attacking at an earlier date. Weather reports from the operational area disclose: wind west 5 to 7, poor visibility, and rain. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean believes that an attack against the westbound convoy promises success, since its escort is not very strong. The escort of convoy PQ 15 is expected to be strong, although until now no report has been received in this connection.

The 2 other submarines in the Jan Mayen area which are directly under the command of Group North will be transferred to the Admiral, Arctic Ocean after establishing and maintaining contact with convoy PQ 15, or in case the convoy has passed. The 2 submarines are not to be employed east of 32° E, unless they are maintaining contact or are in the process of attacking. Group North anticipates that convoys PQ 15 and QP 14 will be contacted on or about 2 May. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean has been instructed to mine the area between quadrant AC 8834 and AC 8839 with 94 mines, using the 8th Destroyer Flotilla. No mines must be laid north of 69° 54' N. No pocket battleship is to be employed because of the lack of destroyers. It will be left up to the Admiral, Arctic Ocean whether or not PT boats are to go into action off the Murmansk coast, depending on the weather and the visibility. Beginning at about 120 miles off Kola Bay the main weight of the attack is to be carried by the Air Force because of the daylight and counterattacks by enemy submarines. Finally, Group North proposes that after the mines have been

laid the destroyers be used solely for patrolling offshore. In the event that mining operations have to be cancelled because of the weather, Group North requires that its permission be sought before sending the destroyers into action. (See Telegram 1329.)

> The Naval Staff feels that the question of command authority in northern waters has not been solved satisfactorily. Group North's interference in the operational planning of the Commanding Admiral, Norway, as revealed by the above directive, doubtless restricts the freedom of action of the Admiral, Arctic Ocean. Thus the essential basic idea of unified planning and unified operational command is endangered.

The Naval Staff sent a memorandum on the situation with regard to operations against enemy shipping in the Arctic Ocean to the Naval Adjutant at the Fuehrer's Headquarters and the Naval Liaison Officers attached to the Army High Command, the Commander in Chief, Air Force, and the Armed Forces High Command for their personal information. This memorandum discusses the use of submarines, heavy and light naval forces, mines, and above all the use of planes, which in view of the present situation are the best weapons to combat effectively this enemy traffic. For copy see 1/Skl I a 9866/42 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

The Commanding Admiral, Norway reports that at 0030 in the night of 28 Apr. 30 enemy planes attacked the Trondheim area from the west. The main attack was concentrated on Aasen Fjord. No damage in Trondheim. Communications to Aasen Fjord were interrupted. Until now 3 enemy planes have been reported shot down.

The Commander in Chief, Air Force sent the following telegram in reply to the Naval Staff's request for reinforcement of the Trondheim fighter defense (see War Diary 26 and 25 Apr.):

"The Commander in Chief, Air Force is aware of the fact that it is desirable to have a stronger fighter defense in Trondheim. However, reinforcements cannot be made available at present. Conditions in the Air Force are similar to those faced by the Navy with respect to scarcity of forces at its disposal. The Commander in Chief, Air Force would like the Navy to transfer more destroyers to the Norwegian area so that they could combat effectively and successfully enemy convoy traffic passing the coast of northern Norway, in close cooperation with the Air Force."

> The Naval Liaison Officer attached to the Commander in Chief, Air Force was instructed by telephone to inform the Operations Staff of the Commander in Chief, Air Force verbally, in a comradely way, that the Naval Staff must consider this telegram in very bad taste, and that it requests the Air Force to use more civil language. Otherwise no action is to be taken.

From the report on the situation by the Commanding Admiral, Norway: On 28 Apr. the Mountain Corps, Norway alerted all forces deployed in the coastal defense service. At 0125 on 28 Apr. Petsamo reports that the Army was alerted because of the Russian landings in the evening of 27 Apr., which were carried out by 1 destroyer, 15 gunboats, and 10 vessels under 500 GRT. Fighting is going on near Pikyushev, Oberhof, and Mogelini in the Gulf of Motovski.

The Naval Staff assigns mine layer SKAGERRAK to Naval Group North to

be made available to the Commanding Admiral, Norway as soon as she is ready for action. The Norwegian steamer CURITYBA exploded and sank off Varanger Fjord. Later, a surfaced enemy submarine was sighted and attacked near the location of the sinking as she was about to withdraw. No detailed reports available. Convoy service according to plan. The TSINGTAU has arrived in Svolvaer.

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

During the night of 28 Apr. about 30 enemy planes attacked Kiel, causing no important damage to naval installations. Residences and other buildings were damaged more severely. For details see Telegrams 0725, 0748, 0750, and 2321.

The Naval forces under the Commander, Mine Sweepers, Baltic Sea are starting to transfer to the east. The 1st Motor Mine Sweeper Flotilla and mine clearance vessel "11" will check the sea lanes and the Kolberg mine field while en route.

Finland agrees with the proposed line of demarcation between the air reconnaissance area of the 1st Air Force and that of the Finnish Air Force. (See Telegram 1600.)

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Lively air reconnaissance over the rendezvous area located 63 enemy planes for certain, and probably 18 more. British vessels were located 170 miles west of Brest and 20 miles north of Rockall Bank.

One submarine sighting report was intercepted from the American coast in the vicinity of Cape Lookout, and one from about 300 miles north of Bermuda; one from the West Indies northwest of Port of Spain, and one about 200 miles north of Trinidad.

According to Italian reports the submarines sunk at Valletta were the P "36", "38", and "39". So far the fourth submarine has not been identified.

2. Own Situation:

For employment of submarines against QP and PQ convoys in the Arctic Ocean see Situation Norway and Supplementary Submarine Situation.

Submarine U "116", which was damaged in quadrant AL 29 in the course of an enemy air attack, will put in at Brest for repairs and refuelling because of oil leakage.

Reports of successes off the American coast:

Submarine U "108" sank the steamer MODESTA (3,830 GRT) and the tanker MOBILOIL (9,860 GRT). Submarine U "576" sank the steamer P. ESTON COUNTY (5,100 GRT), and damaged 1 steamer of 5,000 GRT. Submarine U "136" torpedoed a steamer of 5,000 GRT, which very likely sank. In-

creased air patrols and bright moonlit nights force the submarines to remain under water day and night, causing a decline in the number of ships sunk. No success reports were received from the other submarine operations areas.

For details see supplement to Submarine Situation, War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

The Naval Staff had requested that the Admiral, Arctic Ocean and Group North give their point of view as to the prevailing tactical possibilities for operations by surface forces and submarines in the Arctic Ocean (see War Diary 28 Apr.). The Naval Staff likewise requests the Commanding Admiral, Submarines for an opinion as to the possibilities for submarine operations now that enemy patrols of coastal waters and convoy defenses are becoming more effective due to the shorter nights. His report should be based on his experiences, particularly those gained in operations against PQ convoys.

The Naval Staff believes that a survey of the submarine situation may possibly lead to the withdrawal of a number of submarines from the Arctic Ocean during the summer months so that submarine operations in other areas may be increased accordingly (see Telegram 1719).

VI. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

During the night of 28 Apr. enemy planes dropped 60 high-explosive bombs on the city and harbor of Trondheim. No damage. 3 of the attackers were shot down.

During the day 2 Spitfires were shot down in the west area. During the day Great Yarmouth and Stamford Bridge were bombed. In the night of 29 Apr. 70 planes attacked Norwich with good results.

During the night only 10 of the 172 enemy planes reported flew over Reich territory (waters around the East Frisian Islands and Baltic Sea entrances, and Kiel; one plane by way of Saarlautern - Nuernberg to Pilsen and back). The attacks were concentrated on western France, where 105 planes attacked Paris. Industrial installations and buildings were damaged considerably. 42 planes in all flew over Belgium, northern France, the Netherlands, and Norway. 2 planes were shot down over Germany.

2. Mediterranean Theater:

The attacks against Malta airfields were continued. 1 Spitfire was shot down. One enemy submarine was probably sunk east of the Kerkenna Islands.

3. Eastern Front:

65 bombers took off against Novorossisk and 40 against Kerch on 28 Apr. 2 medium-sized steamers were damaged in Novorossisk harbor.

A strong formation supporting army operations in the Petsamo area succeeded in shooting down 7 enemy fighters.

4. Special Item:

In reply to a memorandum of Group North, the 5th Air Force writes as follows: "In no case is it necessary that the commands of other branches of the Armed Forces request reinforcements for the Air Force in Norway through their own high commands or civilian authorities. The Commander in Chief, Air Force definitely will not comply with requests of this sort. If the forces at their disposal are too small to carry out the duties they were directed to perform, it will be up to the 5th Air Force to request the necessary planes from the Commander in Chief, Air Force."

Group North disagrees with this viewpoint, stressing that it is its duty to report to the Naval Staff when an air force cannot meet the demands made on it by Group North, and to request that the air force concerned be supplied with the planes needed. This principle has been followed since the beginning of the war and Group North cannot see how it can be abandoned in the future. Therefore Group North feels that it is up to the Naval Staff and the Commander in Chief, Air Force to decide to what extent the Commander in Chief, Air Force is meeting or is able to meet such demands.

The Naval Staff fully agrees with the viewpoint of Group North. The Chief, Naval Staff directs the Naval Staff to adopt this policy. In this connection a memorandum was sent to the Operations Staff of the Commander in Chief, Air Force.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean

1. Enemy Situation:

Number of submarine sightings normal. Nothing to report.

2. Situation Italy:

During the night of 28 Apr. enemy planes attacked Benghazi.

While conferring with Admiral Riccardi during his visit in Italy on 14 and 15 Apr., the Chief of Staff to the Commanding Admiral, Submarines praised the zeal of the Italian submarine crews in the Atlantic and the personal merits of Admiral Parona. He also expressed to General Cavallero the appreciation of the German Navy for the excellent support given to the German submarines at La Spezia and Pola, and he repeated the above statements to the Duce. Cavallero's remark, that in recognition of the great importance of transport submarines the Italian Navy is going to employ 4 such vessels in the near future, is worthy of note. In connection with the strategic situation in the Mediterranean the Duce declared (on 15 Apr.): "Malta's time is up."

For detailed report of the German Naval Attache, Rome see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

Ship movements proceeded according to plan without incidents.

A 40 ton floating crane was raised in Benghazi and put into operation.

On 10 May the Sea Transport Office at Ras el Hilal (west of Derna) will start to operate.

A-6599

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Between 2215 and 2315 on 28 Apr. 5 to 6 vessels were observed which approached Timbakion to within 12 kilometers and then turned off to Gavdhos.

Own Situation:

The anti-torpedo defense off Candia has been completed.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

For evaluation of aerial photographs taken of Novorossisk on 28 Apr. see Telegram 1050. In the afternoon of 29 Apr. a convoy bound from Sevastopol was located 110 miles south by east off Feodosiya. Radio monitoring revealed that naval forces are about to rendezvous with the convoy.

Air reconnaissance observed lively ship traffic in the Sea of Azov.

Own Situation:

An enemy air attack against Eupatoria in the afternoon of 28 Apr. resulted in slight damage to the naval searchlight position. It is planned to have motor fishing smacks patrol the waters off Taganrog as of 29 Apr. and to have 2 motor fishing smacks patrol the waters off the Mius Estuary as of 1 May. Minesweeping operations according to plan. Unfavorable weather interfered with convoy traffic.

VIII. Situation East Asia

According to Reuter, heavy fighting is in progress in the eastern sector of the Burma front. Taung-gyi is said to have been retaken by Chinese troops. 2 Japanese columns are slowly advancing toward the Mandalay-Lashio railroad line.

According to Japanese headquarters Japanese naval forces have occupied all points of strategic importance in the northern part of New Guinea.

IX. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Assault troop and patrol activity on both sides and local harassing artillery fire. A German panzer corps and an SS regiment which were fired on by the enemy report that most of the shells turned out to be duds. (It was found that the shells were filled with sand!)

Central Army Group:

Enemy attacks were repulsed near Mtsensk, Yukhnov, in the

Rzhev area, and near Velish. Mines blew up a construction train and damaged the Roslavl-Bryansk railroad line near Seltse. German troops mopped up the supply line on the road from Byeloi to Smolensk.

Northern Army Group:

Enemy attacks near Kholm were repulsed. The Eicke and Von Seydlitz Groups continued fighting on both sides of the Lovat river. West of Yamno enemy attempts to break out were frustrated, while our troops succeeded in advancing.

After artillery preparation the enemy, supported by tanks and strong plane formations, attacked the German defense front. In spite of the stubborn German defense he succeeded in penetrating our lines in a sector about 2.5 kilometers wide and about 2 kilometers deep. In the meanwhile German troops succeeded in sealing off the point of penetration thanks to the unceasing support of our Air Force. According to prisoners statements, 1 May has been designated as the day of attack for the purpose of taking Byeloi and Kholm, as well as the day when Russian troops will break into the pocket in the sector of the 18th Army.

2. Finnish and Norwegian Front:

Considerable enemy forces have been made available in order to continue the attacks which are still in progress against both wings of the 6th Mountain Division. It is expected that the enemy is going to attack the supply road of the 6th Mountain Division both from the north (Motovski Bay) and from the south.

3. North Africa:

Lively patrol activity on both sides. Otherwise the day was quiet.

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30 Apr. 1942

Items of Political Importance

Great Britain:

Sinclair, Secretary of State for Air, emphasized that bombing the enemy's war industry might be an important factor in bringing the war to a speedy conclusion. He said that the harbors of Luebeck and Rostock are vital to Germany as bases for shipments of supplies to the north and the east. Luebeck serves as a training center for submarines and Rostock is the seat of the Heinkel works. British air raids against these ports would definitely support Russia. Replying to a question in the House of Commons as to whether it would be possible for both sides to refrain from bombing historically important localities, the Secretary of State for Air stressed winning the war as fast as possible as the best way to prevent such destruction. Special emphasis was put on British air raids on Trondheim, because this port serves as the operational base for the TIRPITZ, the SCHEER, and the PRINZ EUGEN, from which these vessels are raiding convoys to Murmansk.

In the House of Lords, Cripps' mission to India was discussed. It was proposed that Cripps go to India again to continue negotiations. The Secretary of State for India and Burma emphasized that Cripps' mission was not an act of repentence at the last moment resulting from the new situation in India. Instead, it was a continuation of the policy which the government has been pursuing over a period of years. Never before in history has there been a nobler or more excellent opportunity to shape India into a free and self-governed nation.

Australia:

Prime Minister Curtin declared that Australia is still facing constant and undiminished danger. He said that considerable reinforcements have arrived in Australia, and that Japan has lost a large number of planes over northern Australia and New Guinea.

Portugal:

According to information from diplomatic circles, the situation in the Portuguese colonies is being reviewed with anxiety. The Portuguese Ambassador in London reports that he attempted in vain to obtain Great Britain's guarantee with regard to Angola and Mozambique. The Union of South Africa in particular is feared to have designs on parts of the Portuguese colonial empire.

Turkey:

After his return from Turkey, the Turkish Ambassador in Berlin expressed his satisfaction with regard to Turko-German relations. Turkey is supposedly less suspicious of Bulgaria's attitude than in the past. The Ambassador said that Russia has taken over the defense of Transcaucasia because she distrusted British activities in that region.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff.

I. For detailed report on present operations against British convoys to Murmansk see Situation Norway.

II. Use of Pocket Battleships:

After discussing the matter with the Commanding Admiral, Battleships,

Group North reports that an engine overhaul requiring 8 to 10 weeks will be necessary before the cruiser SCHEER can be employed overseas. Therefore, if the cruiser is scheduled to go to the Atlantic in the fall she will have to be recalled from Norway about 11 weeks earlier - provided that a shipyard is available at the right time.

The Naval Staff is determined to resume overseas operations of pocket battleships in the fall of this year. Therefore, the necessity must be kept in mind to recall the SCHEER early enough so that she can be prepared for her assignment in the Atlantic. At present, however, the SCHEER cannot be withdrawn from the Norway area in view of the reported enemy situation and the definite directive of the Fuehrer.

III. Concerning the Operation against Malta:

The Chief, Naval Intelligence Division speaks on Feller's (Cairo) latest report to the War Department in Washington which was decoded and which confirms the gravity of the situation on Malta. It reveals that the lack of ammunition has silenced half of the anti-aircraft guns. While fuel for planes is still plentiful, the supply for motor vehicles is running low. All British women were evacuated by air.

Heavy bombings forced the last convoys to stay inside the harbor for 2 days. Civilian workers refused to unload the ships. As a result, ships were sunk or gutted by fire. The continuous air raids gave the gun crews and the air force no rest. The civilian population is worn out. Feller believes that the assignment of 100 fighters to Malta, and Egypt-based air raids against Sicily may yet save the situation. If, on the other hand, the German offensive continues and convoys fail to arrive, he expects Malta to fall. Feller's report emphasizes the extreme strategic and tactical importance of Malta. The vital need for ammunition will have to be met with adequate shipments by air. Feller urges the War Department in Washington to make transport planes available for this purpose.

IV. Preparations for German Naval Operations in the Black Sea:

The Chief, Naval Staff Quartermaster Division reports on the trip of Captain von Baumbach to the Black Sea coast for the purpose of gaining information, acquiring ships, and expediting preparations so that naval transports in support of Army operations can be started as soon as possible. This trip which was ordered by the Naval Staff has proved very useful already. Captain von Baumbach evidently succeeded in eliminating certain shortcomings in Black Sea and Crimean ports. There is also good reason to believe that additional transport ships can be procured, which was not possible before now. According to information obtained so far, Ochakov seems to be particularly suitable as an operations base for the 1st PT Boat Flotilla. Other ports considered for PT boat operations bases are Skadovsk, Port Khorli, and Ak-Mechet.

Unfortunately, the transfer of the submarines intended for the Black Sea is being delayed due to a number of unforeseen difficulties. The Naval Staff Quartermaster Division reports that it will take until 19 Sep. before submarine U "24" will be ready for use in the Black Sea. Submarine U "9" will be ready for action by the middle of October, and U "19" by the middle of November.

V. Construction of Submarines:

On 17 Apr., subsequent to a report by the Chief, Submarine Division of the Naval Staff, the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered submarines built

in accordance with the following production schedule at the average rate of 19 boats per month, on the basis of the present raw materiel situation:

14 VII C boats (517 t)
3 IX C boats (740 t)
1 IX D boat (long-range submarine)
1 Special boat type X B, VII F, or XIV (minelayer, torpedo transport, or submarine tanker).

Special Items:

I. The Naval Attache, Lisbon reports on the conference of the Military Attache with the Portuguese Undersecretary of War, Captain Santos Costa, with regard to British plans to land in Portugal. The Portuguese Undersecretary of War had this question investigated in Great Britain. The possibility was discussed that the British might have to send forces through Portugal in order to defend Gibraltar. The British are opposed to such a plan owing to the difficulty of landing. Only the threat of an attack against Gibraltar could force Great Britain to land troops in Portugal. On the other hand, the situation in the Azores is still considered very dangerous. The same holds true with regard to Portuguese Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands. The Portuguese colonies are hardly capable of defending themselves. In connection with the Azores, the Undersecretary said that the last military commander had been recalled because of his strongly pro-British attitude. The present commander is absolutely reliable.

II. Operation "Suedsee":

For state of preparations see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V. (1/Skl report No. 10161/42 Gkdos.) A conference with the Naval Construction Division revealed that operation "Suedsee" can again be resumed provided that the decision is made no later than by the end of October 1942. Therefore the Special Staff of Economic Warfare will bring up this question again in October 1942, so that agreement can be reached as to whether to confirm the action of the Commander in Chief, Navy who ordered preparations to cease, or whether new decisions shall be made. The Naval Staff Operations Division feels that those preparations which do not tax our shipyard capacity ought to be continued by all means (e.g., continuation of work on the icebreaker POLLUX in the Netherlands, which is being built for use in the Arctic).

(Handwritten marginal note: It was learned afterwards that this decision will have to be made no later than 20 Jun. because of the requisitions for material which must be submitted. Signed: Naval Staff Operations Division, 14 May.)

Shipping on the Atlantic (Africa-America routes) is expected to increase in proportion to the number of Anglo-American ships driven out of the Indian Ocean. The same may be the case with regard to the supply routes from Europe to America. (Handwritten marginal note: The result may well be that the enemy is going to reinforce his naval forces in that area; the Natal-Freetown route above all will be subject to strict surveillance.) Therefore it cannot be guaranteed that conditions for blockade runners in the Atlantic will remain favorable for a long time. Nor is it possible to predict whether a route can be established from the Mediterranean to East Asia by way of the Red Sea. Therefore the

Naval Staff Operations Division feels that this chance of utilizing a longer route should not be passed up offhand, especially because one cannot foresee how this war will develop. Toward the end of October, when the final decision will be made, we may have a clearer view of the situation. Operation "Suedsee" must be kept in mind from this standpoint.

III. Planes for Carriers:

For result of conference of the Naval Air and Air Force Liaison Section of the Naval Staff with the Commander in Chief, Air Force, Operations Staff see War Diary, Part C, Vol. V. It was decided not to develop new types of carrier planes because it appeared practical to adapt models on hand for use as carrier planes, especially because their performance as demonstrated by tests makes them appear suitable for this purpose. Experience has shown that in their most important and complicated sections the adapted models considered for this purpose will be up to requirements; therefore the development and testing of these types is not expected to present any difficulties. The Chief, General Staff will get the Reichsmarschall to order the pilot models BF 109 G, BF 109 F, and Ju 87 D adapted for carrier use according to plans, so that the aircraft industry can begin with the work at once.

IV. Mine Supplies:

The development of the war situation has necessitated the employment of more mines than planned originally, above all of standard mines type C and anti-submarine mines type B. Thus it appears even now that the monthly supply at the rate of 500 standard mines type C and 200 type B anti-submarine mines is entirely inadequate. This lower supply is the result of the reduction in raw material allotments. It will be necessary at least to double the above-mentioned figure at once.

Therefore the Naval Staff requests the Ordnance Division, Underwater Obstacles Branch to get the authorities concerned to increase the allotment of raw materials accordingly, by pointing out to them that the Naval Staff considers this matter to be of utmost importance.

The Naval Staff demands a monthly supply at the following rate:

Standard mines type C: 1,000
Anti-submarine mines type B: 500

V. For review of Germany's war economy in March 1942 see Report on the Situation No. 31 by the Armed Forces High Command, War Economy and Armaments in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II. The following brief description gives a picture of the situation:

The production of ammunition for the Army is being increased as fast as possible. For this purpose the Air Force and the Navy are making manufacturing capacity temporarily available to the Army. Now as in the past the manpower problem is most acute. Russian civilians are being put to work on a larger scale. There are no prospects for more female workers. More favorable weather has somewhat improved the transportation situation. There is a severe shortage of seagoing vessels because too many are being sent to Norway, cannot be unloaded because of lack of facilities, and thus remain there. The production of iron and steel has gone down even further. Copper is especially scarce. While the situation in connection with the production of coal and electricity has eased up somewhat, the petroleum situation is strained. Imports from Rumania have gone down. Floods have caused considerable damage to Rumanian oil fields. While the damage resulting from enemy air raids has been comparatively slight with regard to industrial targets, non-

military buildings have been hit rather extensively.

Situation 30 Apr. 1942

I. War in Foreign Waters

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Ship "10", which is in the operations area agreed upon with the Japanese Navy, intends to turn over her prisoners to the REGENSBURG early in May.

Ship "28" is beginning her operation in the South Atlantic.

The DOGGERBANK is believed to be in her waiting area in the South Atlantic.

So far radio monitoring has failed to pick up anything which might inform the Naval Staff of the progress of DOGGERBANK's special mission. The Naval Staff assumes that it is proceeding according to plan. The Naval Staff sent the following instructions by Radiogram 1709:

In the middle of May the DOGGERBANK is to meet blockade-runner DRESDEN in the northern part of the waiting area for the purpose of taking on mail for ship "10", for the CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN, and for her own crew. At the end of July she is to supply an auxiliary cruiser with fuel, whereupon she will be released to proceed to her base in Japan.

Blockade-runner REGENSBURG is to meet ship "10" early in May to take over her prisoners.

The TANNENFELS is on the way to Sunda Strait. The Naval Attache in Tokyo sends instructions to the ship to zig-zag close to the shore and to proceed to point 9 at top speed, where she is to await Japanese patrol vessels and then to put into Yokohama. To make certain, the Naval Staff sent a radiogram repeating the telegram from Tokyo. (See Radiogram 1818.)

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN is in the waiting area in the South Atlantic.

The DRESDEN is still in the central part of the Atlantic, north of St. Paul's Rock.

Radiogram 1824 informed all forces in foreign waters of the progress of the DRESDEN. On 5 May the ship passed the latitude of "Amerongen" on the longitude of "Wagner".

The PORTLAND is southwest of the Azores, the MUENSTERLAND about 5 days behind the PORTLAND en route to western France.

Radiogram 1500 informed all forces in foreign waters about the British air attacks. Radiograms 0237, 1149, and 2253 were sent to them with information on the enemy situation.

II. Situation West Area

1. Enemy Situation:

Lively British air activity against the coast of the Netherlands and northern France.

With respect to the question of an enemy landing on the continent, the Italian Navy reveals that reports from Weygand repeatedly indicate the probability of an American landing in France. A landing will allegedly take place on the coast near the Gironde estuary. (For details see Telegram 1245.)

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Exploratory sweep of the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla without incidents. The flotilla arrived in Brest.

In view of the fact that it is necessary to station and employ torpedo boats in the western area, the Naval Staff assigned the torpedo boats which had been intended for the 4th Torpedo Boat Flotilla to Group West as soon as they are ready for operations. The Naval Staff Quartermaster Division was instructed to allot all torpedo boats which are coming off the production line to the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla until such time when the staff of the 4th Torpedo Boat Flotilla has been formed.

Channel Coast:

In the afternoon enemy bombers with strong fighter escort attacked Flushing, causing slight damage in the shipyard and the harbor.

A strong force of enemy planes attacked the 2nd Mine Sweeper Flotilla south of Les Sept Iles. The vessels, which were engaged in individual exercises, succeeded in shooting down a number of planes. Another enemy attack was directed against Le Havre. No damage.

The 4th PT Boat Flotilla has been transferred from Ostend to Rotterdam.

III. North Sea, Norway, Arctic Ocean

1. North Sea:

Convoy traffic proceeded according to plan. Several ground mines were swept. Unsuccessful air attack against steamer traffic north of Borkum.

2. Norway:

Enemy Situation:

At 1435 air reconnaissance sighted an enemy force, believed to be a remote escort of the PQ convoy, consisting of 2 battleships, 1 carrier, 1 heavy cruiser, and several destroyers and escort vessels. The position reported was east of Iceland, in quadrant AE 5360, course 220°. It is quite safe to assume that this force represents a remote escort, because a task force similarly composed had been located in these

IV. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea

Nothing to report. Troop shipments continue according to schedule.

V. Submarine Warfare

1. Enemy Situation:

Little air reconnaissance activity of enemy planes over the northeastern part of the Atlantic. Radio monitoring intercepted a number of reports on submarine sightings from off the American coast. Enemy radio signals reporting submarine attacks were picked up west of the approaches to the Windward Passage and south of Puerto Rico in the area of the West Indies. A submarine warning signal was sent for the waters west of Port of Spain.

2. Own Situation:

For operations in the Arctic Ocean see section under "Norway".

Submarine U "576" torpedoed a steamer (5,000 GRT) off the American coast. The boat believes that much shipping traffic carrying supplies is reaching Boston by way of quadrants CB 14, 11, and 12.

For details regarding submarine operations see supplement to Submarine Situation in War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV.

Concerning the situation in the South Atlantic:

It had been noticed in the past that some of the shipping traffic was being rerouted from the central part of the western Atlantic to the waters around Freetown. The latest information available leaves no doubt that this trend is continuing on an even larger scale. In comparison with conditions prevailing in the beginning of 1942, a much greater part of enemy shipping between the Cape and the La Plata area on one hand and Great Britian on the other hand is now being routed by way of Freetown. Thus the waters around Freetown have gained considerable significance in the battle against enemy shipping, since not only part of the shipments vital to Great Britain are being routed by way of these waters, but also the major part of the supply traffic for the west African area, as well as the shipping to the Middle East by way of Capetown.

Therefore the Naval Staff is weighing plans at present to renew submarine operations in the waters west of Freetown. The Naval Staff and the Commanding Admiral, Submarines agree as to the usefulness of this operation. This operation will depend on the forces available for the purpose.

VII. Aerial Warfare

1. British Isles and Vicinity:

Eight enemy planes were shot down for certain, and 6 were probably shot down during daylight attacks against the west area. During the night a large number of German planes attacked Sunderland. No enemy planes flew over Reich territory.

very waters when convoy PQ 14 was passing that area. The presence of our heavy ships in the Norway area compels the enemy to employ such a force there. Due to the bad weather and the poor visibility which handicapped air reconnaissance, convoy PQ 15 was not sighted on 30 Apr. The convoy had sailed from Loch Ewe on 12 Apr., stayed in Reykjavik for 9 days, and sailed from there presumably on 25 Apr. The convoy is expected to arrive south of Bear Island on 2 May, speed 7 knots. It is believed that convoy PQ 16 will sail from Reykjavik some time after 4 May. However it is not unlikely that convoy PQ 16 may sail a day or two earlier than anticipated, because of the urgency of getting supplies to Russia, which may cause the sailing schedule for convoy traffic to be speeded up during the weeks to come.

In the night of 29 Apr. submarine U "88" located the outbound convoy QP 11 in quadrant AC 5924 (approximately 150 miles northeast of Vardoe). The convoy is sailing in a westerly direction along the drift-ice boundary. Contact was lost but was regained by submarine U "88" at about 1822. Submarine U "251" also came close to the convoy. After contact was lost a second time submarine U "589" reported a westbound convoy in quadrant AC 5491 at 2310.

Own Situation:

Operation against QP 11:

At 2317 on 29 Apr. submarine U "88" sighted a westbound destroyer in quadrant AC 5921. Group "Strauchritter", which was sailing along the patrol line in quadrant 5679-5845 steering course 145°, was therefore ordered to stop. Weather unfavorable, wind west 5 to 7, visibility poor, rain. When contact was lost toward morning, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean shifted the submarine patrol line to the west. He justified his order by the fact that it was necessary to redeploy his forces; the area in which the enemy was believed to be, had to be searched, and it was necessary to make a timely advance toward the main objective (convoy PQ 15) in order to reach Bear Island in the morning of 2 May.

At 1142 submarine U "456" sighted a westbound cruiser of the BELFAST class, obviously part of the convoy escort, in quadrant 5582.

Submarine U "436" fired a four-fan at the cruiser, but missed. Submarine U "456" (Teichert) kept contact with the cruiser which was zigzagging at full speed. At 1618 she scored 2 torpedo hits in spite of the bad weather which made it difficult to take aim. Position quadrant 5519. The submarine reported the cruiser afire and listing heavily. A short time after the torpedoing 3 enemy destroyers joined the cruiser which was proceeding slowly. The enemy force steered south at low speed, evidently with the purpose of returning to Murmansk. Unfortunately the heavy sea and the fact that she was unable to use her periscope kept submarine U "456" from repeating her attack. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean ordered all submarines nearby to proceed against the damaged cruiser. In his evening report on the situation the Admiral, Arctic Ocean mentioned his plan to employ the Destroyer Group, Arctic Ocean against the damaged cruiser in addition to the submarines. The destroyers sailed from Kirkenes at 0100 on 1 May. Group North was in agreement with the Admiral, Arctic Ocean, who wanted to employ the destroyers against the cruiser. On the other hand Group North specified that the destroyers should not spend too much time searching for and pursuing convoy QP 11, so that they would not be kept from carrying out their mining mission against PQ 15 according to plan. If the weather should be so unfavorable as to compel the destroyers to break off operations prematurely, the submarines were to attempt to destroy the cruiser. However, the Admiral, Arctic Ocean decided to change his plan when at 2310 submarine

U "589" again sighted the convoy, radioing its exact position in quadrant 5491. He committed the destroyers against the convoy as there seemed to be more possibility of success, especially because no further news had been received with regard to the enemy cruiser. In the event, however, that contact with the convoy should be lost again, while contact was still being kept with the cruiser, the destroyers were to proceed against the cruiser instead.

The Naval Staff approved the plan of sending the destroyers against the convoy. In this case the convoy was considered the more important target because it was not very likely that the damaged enemy cruiser would succeed in reaching Murmansk, and because the prospects of the success of a destroyer attact against this cruiser were considered doubtful, to say the least. In addition, everything must be done to reduce enemy shipping on the supply route to Murmansk.

Submarine U "88" was confident that she succeeded in sinking a large freighter sailing in the convoy. Another vessel reported that the heavy sea made it impossible for her to attack while submerged. Submarines U "405" and U "713" which had taken up positions east of Jan Mayen failed to sight any enemy vessels. At this time Group North turned the operational command of these boats over to the Admiral, Arctic Ocean, who ordered them to proceed to quadrants AB 6260 and 6290. As for the arrangement of having these 2 boats operate under the command of Group North, the Naval Staff feels that it proved inopportune and entirely futile. On the contrary the Admiral, Arctic Ocean was forced to take the 2 boats out of the jurisdiction of Group North to fit them into the operations already launched by him against convoy traffic. In anticipation of the arrival of convoy PQ 15, he appropriately sent the 2 submarines into the waters between Bear Island and the North Cape, which the Naval Staff considered the main area of attack. The submarines employed at that moment against convoy QP 11 were also ordered to switch over gradually to that area. According to the viewpoint of the Naval Staff it would have been better if Group North had transferred the operational command of these boats to the Admiral, Arctic Ocean from the very start, as the Naval Staff had suggested to Group North repeatedly. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean must have the command over all vessels operating in the Arctic Ocean.

Nothing to report in the Norway area with the exception of a number of enemy planes sighted over the Norwegian coast on 30 Apr. Convoy traffic according to plan. On 29 Apr. the steamer CURITYBA sank in Varanger Fjord as the result of 2 torpedoes fired by an enemy submarine. In spite of the gunfire of the subchasers pursuing her, the submarine succeeded in escaping.

Enemy planes which attacked Aasen Fjord during the night of 28 Apr. dropped a series of bombs close to the SCHEER's berth. Net buoys were damaged over an area of 50 meters. Shell fragments put one of the radio transmitters on the SCHEER out of commission. The Admiral, Arctic Ocean reported that the attacking planes used a new type of British aerial depth charges containing an explosive load of 425 kilograms and equipped with hydrostatic firing similar to that of British depth charges. These depth charges do not explode when hitting land, therefore they must not be dropped overboard if they fall on deck. (See also message 1820.)

The Admiral, North Norwegian Coast reports that a mine field has been laid consisting of 3 rows of anti-submarine mines, type B. (For details see War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.)

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2. Northern Area:

Unfavorable weather greatly handicapped plane operations against the Murmansk convoy. The Liaison Officer attached to the Commander in Chief, Air Force reports the following factors limiting air operations against Murmansk and its surroundings:

Since attacks were not concentrated, only minor success was achieved.

Weather conditions in the arctic area made operations very difficult.

Coasts were frequently blotted out completely.

Low-hanging clouds.

Strong British fighter defense. New Russian fighter models.

Bomb attacks were inaccurate.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

The effective attacks against Malta are being continued.

4. Eastern Front:

So far our attacks against Leningrad have failed to inflict any serious damage on the Russian fleet. Therefore when the time comes for the ice to break up the situation will be similar to that in the fall of 1941, unless our planes are more successful in the future.

According to the Naval Air Commander, South, between 19 Feb. and 2 Apr. 59,000 GRT were sunk or destroyed in the Black Sea. It must be pointed out that good results can be achieved only with attacks concentrated against a single harbor. According to our Naval Liaison Officer with the Commander in Chief, Air Force, the 4th Air Force is trying to fulfill all demands. Unfortunately the result may be that no attacks can be undertaken anywhere with a concentration of really adequate forces.

5. Special Items:

The Air Force plans to attack Iceland with a larger force. It was learned however that in view of the planes available, this raid may not be as effective as desired. Therefore the attack is being postponed for the time being. Instead plans are being discussed to launch a raid against Londonderry.

VIII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

1. Enemy Situation:

The EAGLE, a cruiser of the DIDO class, and several destroyers were on maneuvers in the western part of the Mediterranean. At noon on 30 Apr. the following vessels were in the harbor at Gibraltar: the ARGUS, several destroyers, 22 freighters, and 8 tankers. The battle cruiser RENOWN and 1 cruiser of the AURORA class are in dock.

The French Admiralty reports a startling increase of British submarines in Gibraltar. Shock troop detachments are believed to be in that area.

According to Italian reports submarines from Alexandria are stationed at Cyprus. As for the situation in North Africa and Syria, troop-carrying convoys have arrived in Alexandria harbor and in Syrian ports, according to agent information. The ships are carrying mainly replacement troops, guns, anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank guns, armored cars, and air force ground troops. During the first part of May various transports are expected to arrive from the United States, some of which are expected to continue on to Palestine and Syria. (For details see Message 1616.)

2. Situation Italy:

On 28 Apr. an Italian submarine opened fire on 2 enemy sailing vessels, sinking them in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. On 27 Apr. torpedo planes torpedoed a steamer sailing in a convoy north of Port Said.

3. Transport of Supplies to North Africa:

The 8th Transport Group with 5 motor boats sailed from Brindisi, Taranto, Naples, and Palermo. The vessels are bound for Tripoli and Benghazi. Destroyer escort. For details see Telegrams 1335 and 1315.

The vessels are carrying 168 men, 366 vehicles, 11 guns, and 6,400 tons of supplies for the German Armed Forces.

The transport of supplies to North Africa is proceeding according to schedule. Unfortunately, on 23 Apr. 2 boats engaged in coastal traffic between Tripoli and Benghazi ran aground south of Benghazi. Steps are being taken to salvage them.

4. Area Naval Group South:

Aegean Sea:

Nothing to report.

According to the Italian Military Attache in Berlin, it is planned to send 8,000 Italian troop reinforcements and supplies to Crete during May. It is planned to send these men by train from Italy to Piraeus, and to ship them from Piraeus to Crete on the 4 vessels of the "Sienna" Squadron. The Italians asked the Armed Forces High Command to issue the necessary instructions.

While it is unfortunate that the "Sienna" Squadron will thereafter be unable to handle German transports to Crete, it must be pointed out that the reinforcement of Italian troops in Crete has been largely initiated by the Germans; therefore the "Sienna" Squadron will have to be made available for these shipments. Naval Group South and the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea were informed of the Italian plans. The aircraft tender DRACHE, which until now was under the command of the Air Force in the Mediterranean, is being assigned for operational tasks with the Navy to the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea, effective immediately. For the duration of the war the vessel will be under the full control of the Navy.

Black Sea:

Enemy Situation:

See Telegram 1355 for evaluation of aerial photographs of

Novorossisk taken on 29 Apr. as well as of other harbors along the east coast of the Black Sea. According to radio monitoring, a naval force consisting of cruisers and destroyers, which put in at Sevastopol on 29 Apr., sailed again in the morning of 30 Apr. Aerial photographs of Sevastopol taken in the morning of 30 Apr. revealed 5 heavy cruisers, 2 destroyers, and several tankers, steamers, and coastal vessels.

Own Situation:

According to the Naval Liaison Officer attached to the High Command of the 11th Panzer Army, Mariupol was subjected to an air raid on the evening of 28 Apr.; at the same time a Russian motor gunboat fired on the coast of Mariupol with 10.5 cm. guns. Damage insignificant.

IX. Situation East Asia

The Japanese eastern column penetrated into the suburbs of the city of Lashio. The railroad line to Mandalay and the town of Hsipaw were captured. Thus the first link of the Burma road has fallen into Japanese hands. China is said to have large supply stores in Lashio and Mandalay. The Japanese have to overcome stubborn enemy resistance in the river valleys of the Irrawaddy and the Sittang.

According to the Military Attache in Bangkok, American torpedo boats sank a Japanese cruiser during the landing on Cebu. Two of the American torpedo boats were lost.

Planes on the Australian mainland carried out continuous air attacks against Japanese bases in the Bismarck and Solomon Islands.

X. Army Situation

1. Russian Front:

Southern Army Group:

Lively artillery activity in front of Von Kleist Army Group. Much moving about of small enemy forces. Enemy planes especially active.

Central Army Group:

Enemy shock troop undertakings and thrusts were repulsed. Attacks concentrated in the area around Rzhev. German attacks were successful near Byeloi; heavy enemy losses.

Northern Army Group:

The Von Seydlitz Group continued to advance along the Lovat river. German troops are slowly gaining ground at the point where the pocket was sealed. Unsuccessful enemy attacks along the Volkhov front were repulsed with heavy and bloody losses to the enemy.

2. Finnish Front:

In the Loukhi sector reinforced German troops repulsed addi-

tional enemy attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

At the Murmansk front successful German counterattack against Russian attempt at enveloping the southern wing.

The enemy is to bring up reinforcements to Litsa Bay by way of the Gulf of Motovski.

3. North Africa:

British attacks were repulsed. Sand storm interfered with combat activity.

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Glossary for April 1942

Aida

Code name for a planned attack on Suez and Egypt.

Aleppo

A reference point for German ships, defined in German naval files as "Kerguelen (Foundry Branch)".

Amerongen

A reference point for German ships located at 05° S, 01° E.

Bantos minefield

A German minefield northeast of the Fisher (Rybachi) Peninsula, extending from 69° 56.4' N, 33° 41.4' E to 70° 9.6' N, 33° 21.2' E. It was laid by the German mine vessels COBRA and BRUMMER on 20 March 1942.

Barbarossa

Cover name for the invasion of the U.S.S.R. begun in 1941.

Cerberus

Code name for the operation involving the transfer of the SCHARNHORST, GNEISENAU, and PRINZ EUGEN through the Channel in February 1942.

Domei

The official Japanese news agency.

Elch

Code name for a transport operation involving the shipment of approximately 60,000 men to Norway.

EMC mine

Standard mine, type C; a contact mine against surface vessels.

Ernst

A reference point for German ships located at 24° 35' S, 23° 50' W.

Etappe

Secret German naval organization for providing German naval units with information and supplies from foreign bases. Etappe Japan was of great importance for German blockade-running activities.

G7a, G7e

Designation of German naval torpedoes, 7 meters in length and 534 millimeters (21 inches) in diameter. G7a was air driven; G7e was electrically driven.

Hammer

A reference point for German ships at 17° 4' N, 40° 30' W.

Herkules

Code name for an operation designed to capture Malta. Hitler wanted to subject the island to a long series of air raids and a strong blockade immediately after the fall of Tobruk to the Germans.

Kairo

Code name for the mine-laying mission of the German supply ship and blockade-runner DOGGERBANK in the Capetown area. 15 EMC were laid off Cape Agulhas 13 March 1942 and another 80 EMC during the night of 16 April 1942.

Kassel

A mining operation carried out during the night of 25 April 1942 by the minelayer ROLAND, escorted by the ships METEOR and K 1. The minefield laid was No. IX of the Skagerrak mine defenses; it consisted of two rows:

(1) from 57° 40' N, 7° 53' E
to 57° 34' N, 7° 53' E

(2) from 57° 34.3' N, 7° 54' E
to 57° 41.3' N, 7° 58.5' E

Komponisten

The area between 25° S and 32° S, and 12° W and 22° W. In this area were located points named after composers, such as Wagner (which see), Mozart, etc.

Kort tube

A streamlined tube surrounding a ship's propeller. Invented by engineer Kort of Hannover, Germany. This device was to increase the ship's speed and at the same time make her ride more smoothly.

Kuesel minefield No. 1

A minefield blocking the western navigation channel of the entrance to the White Sea. The mined area was rectangular and its boundaries were approximately the following: 67° 30' N; 67° 25' N; 41° 32' E; 41° 09' E.

The minefield was laid by the German destroyers Z 23, Z 24, and Z 25 of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla on 13 January 1942.

Lilie

A point on route "Gelb".

LM

Parachute mine.

Type blue: With regular polarity magnetic firing device.

Type red: With reversed polarity magnetic firing device.
Type green: With acoustic firing device; has stripping prevention equipment (GE) and period delay mechanism (Z.K.).

Maier bow

A streamlined bow, apparently named after the inventor.

Minefield 17b

Reinforcement of the Westwall minefield.

Minefield IX

Same as "Kassel" minefield.

Morgenstern

Code name for a submarine operation directed against Allied shipping and coastal installations at Haifa, Beirut, Port Said, and Famagusta (Cyprus). U 81, U 331, U 561, and U 562 were the submarines involved.

Nagel

A reference point for German ships located at 41° 10' N, 40° 30' W.

News Analysis "Foreign Navies"
(Nachrichtenauswertung "Fremde Marinen")

A daily analysis of foreign newspaper reports concerning foreign naval news, compiled by the Naval Staff, Intelligence Division (3/Skl).

News Series "Foreign Merchant Shipping" ("Fremde Handelsschiffahrt")

A series of condensed data concerning foreign merchant shipping; compiled and published periodically by the Naval Staff, Intelligence Division (3/Skl).

Pappelschwaermer

A reference point for German ships located at 38° 30' N, 37° 30' W. Identical with point "Rotfeder".

Pastorius

Code name for plan to land 8 to 10 German agents on the U.S. coast by means of two submarines.

Paukenschlag

Code name for the first operation of submarines off the U.S. coast beginning December 1941. The submarines involved in the operation were designated as group "Paukenschlag".

PC bombs

Armor-piercing bombs.

Political Review (Politische Uebersicht)

A daily review of political developments abroad published by the Naval Staff, Intelligence Division (3/Skl).

PQ

Designation of convoys proceeding eastward from the United Kingdom to northern Russia.

QP

Designation of convoys returning to the United Kingdom from northern Russia.

QQQ signal

Distress signal sent by ship when sighting or under attack by armed merchant raider. QQQ is also used when suspicious merchant vessels are sighted.

Rack mine, type A

The German SMA mine. A moored influence mine dropped from a specially constructed minelaying submarine. Its charge weighed approximately 350 kilograms. This mine was designed for waters of 50 m. - 300 m. depth.

Richard

A reference point for German ships. It was located at or in the close vicinity of 23° S, 80° E, and seems to have been identical with point "Messing".

Rose

One of the points on route "Gelb".

Rosskaefer

A reference point for German ships, located at 43° 48' N, 7° 52' W.

Rotfeder

A reference point for German ships, located at 38° 30' N, 37° 30' W.

Route "Anton"

A German shipping route. The geographical borders of Route "Anton" were: The French coast at 47° 30' N; 47° 30' N, 29° W; 43° N, 40° W; 37° N, 40° W; continued on 37° N; the southern and eastern borders of route "Anton" were defined by the borders of the operations zone of the submarines in the South Atlantic.

Route "Gelb"

Route taken by German vessels to Japan, via Indian Ocean and Sunda Strait. The points touched on this route are given below, with their usual designations. On occasion the designations for these points were changed:

1. Point Duesseldorf - 24° 00' S, 99° 00' E.
2. Dahlem - Sunda Strait
3. Danzig - 09° 15' N, 110° 30' E
4. Darmstadt - 20° 50' N, 120° 00' E
5. Duisburg - 26° 00' N, 128° 40' E
6. Doeberitz - 34° 00' N, 139° 50' E

By an order dated April 13, 1942 the above points on route "Gelb" were renamed for the use of certain blockade-runners as follows:

1. Rose
2. Lilie
3. Tulpe
4. Reseda
5. Narzisse
6. Loewenzahn

Route "Rosa"

German shipping route along the western coast of France. Some of the points along this route were as follows: Point 31 - 48° 21' N, 5° 12' W; point 32 - 48° 3' N, 5° 12' W; point 34 - 47° 9' N, 3° 00' W; point 35 - 46° 9' N, 1° 50' W; point 36 - 45° 40' N, 1° 26' W.

Route "Rot"

German shipping route via New Zealand, Kermadec Islands, New Hebrides, and Fiji Islands. It touched the following points:

Dwarsloper - 44° 30' S, 169° 00' W
Dobbermann - 30° 00' S, 177° 00' E
Distelfink - 10° 00' S, 172° 00' E
Dohle - Equator, 160° 00' E.
Dompfaff - 05° 50' N, 162° 30' E
Dogge - 33° 10' N, 133° 25' E

The names of these points were changed for different ships at different times.

RRR signal

Distress signal sent by ships when sighting or under attack by enemy warship.

Ruebe

A reference point for German ships, located at 42° S, 21° E.

Saege

A reference point for German ships, located at 26° 00' S, 140 30' W.

SC bombs

Thin-shell high explosive bombs.

Seeloewe

Cover name for the planned invasion of England.

Sellerie

A reference point for German ships, located at 24° S, 88° E.

Siebel ferry

A double-hull ferry boat developed by Special Command Siebel (Sonderkommando Siebel). It consisted of two steel hulls connected by means of wooden platforms; there was a turret in the center. The Siebel ferry could be used as a gun platform, troop carrier, or supply carrier.

SMA mine

Rack mine, type A. A moored influence mine dropped from a specially constructed minelaying submarine. Its charge weighed approximately 350 kilograms. This mine was designed for waters of 50 m. - 300 m. depth.

SSS signal

Submarine warning signal, sent when sighting or under attack by a submarine; could also indicate being damaged by a mine.

Standard Mine, Type C

The German EMC mine, a contact mine against surface vessels.

Suedsee

Planned voyage of German steamers to and from Japan along the northern coast of Russia and Siberia. This route was sailed by the German auxiliary cruiser KOMET (ship "45") with Russian cooperation in 1940 (operation "Gruen").

Todt Organization (O.T.)

A construction organization (named for the founder) which built the German superhighways, the Westwall, and the Atlantic fortifications. It employed domestic and foreign labor on military projects both in Germany and in the occupied countries.

Wagner

A reference point for German ships, located at 28° S, 19° W; one of the points in area "Komponisten".

Wannsee Boats

Small passenger boats originally used on the Wannsee near Berlin for public transportation.

Westwall

A system of mine barrages in the North Sea and off the coast of Norway. Geographically it constituted an extension of the Westwall fortifications on land.

Zange

A reference point for German ships, located at 04° 00' S, 19° 00' W.